REFERENCE

# SKIN

DECEMBER 1956

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Devoted to the Underwater World

28 Meters to Mystery!

Page 6



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## SKIN DIVER

Volume V Number 12 December, 1956

From "Outdoor California" published by the California Department of Fish and Game

Editorial

## MAGAZINE

Devoted to the Underwater World

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Libreria Ledi, S.A. Via Cusani 13, Milano, Italy One Yr. Sub. Rate: 2800 Lire . . . The recent ban on spearfishing along the Florida coast south of Miami and in the upper Florida keys has touched off an uproar of protest from the skin divers and those who have made their living from services to the goggle fishermen. The action was taken, state officials said, because the underwater spearmen had depleted fish life along the reefs. Groupers and snappers were their principal target.

In California, however, the Department of Fish and Game believes the present regulations applying to all sportfishing amply protect ocean fish resources along the coast. Another factor in good relations between the anglers and the diving fraternity here has been in the close working together through organized clubs, councils and federations of sportsmen.

These provide an important means of exchanging information on each other's activities, helping members to understand the problems and needs of the other groups. The department works closely with the sportsmen's councils also, seeking to keep them informed of its program and trying to reconcile different points of view before they become major problems leading to ill feeling.

Department experts said in commenting on underwater fishing:

"We have no real evidence that fish can be driven away from the areas by spearfishermen, although they may become much more shy. Open water and reef fishes apparently so far have been able to take care of themselves. If and when further restrictions are necessary, we feel sure that the Council of Diving Clubs will be the first to come forward with recommendations for more stringent regulations. . ."

The Florida situation is critical. Read "Fiction and Facts" on Page 17, this issue, and see some of the propaganda that is being spread about by the opposition. Then, take pen in hand and write to Governor Leroy Collins, Tallahassee, Florida, defending skin diving and spearfishing. This is urgent. In February Florida will decide about spearfishing. . . if they decide against it, the entire state will be closed to underwater activities.

Spain, France and Italy . . . that is the way the European Championships finished . . , and in both the individual and team competitions. Details will be in a coming issue.

S.P.A.A.A.U. Underwater Spearfishing Committee NATIONAL AWARDS DINNER—December 9, 1956 Moulin Rouge, 6230 Sunset Blvd., Hollywood, California

MUDSHARKS WINTER SPEARFISHING MEET January 20, 1957 Contact in advance for details: Gary Keffler, 535 N. 72nd, Seattle, Washington

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**DECEMBER COVER**—"With the electric torch in hand, leaving behind the light of the entrance of Medas Islands caverns, my friend Roberto Diaz follows me through to mystery." The cover picture only gives you a brief of the mystery of Medas Islands. Follow Edward Admetlla Lazaro, noted Spanish diver and photographer, in this unparalleled adventure. Page 6. "28 Meters to Mystery."

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REACH 41 METERS



1956 SKIN DIVER-December, 1956



A new depth record for skin diving was set September 19, 1956 at Rapallo, Italy.

The Neapolitan champions Erminio Falco and Alberto Novelli reached the tremendous depth of 41 meters (134.51 feet) with Caraibi fins and a Mares mask. The former free diving depth record was also held by an Italian, Raimondo Bucher, 127.95 feet.

The depth and circumstances of the dive were carefully checked and regularly controlled by two officers of the F.I.A.S.

Man, using skin diving methods, is rapidly going deeper and further into the great unknown. The divers for this occasion had to be in first class physical condition and mentally prepared.

Photographs by ROBERTO MERLO—Torino, Italy

# 28 meters to MYSTERY!





by edward admetlla lazaro diver-photographer barcelona, spain fishing sixteen in sout to an a Ed.)

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owadays, a lot of people are fond of Underwater Spearfishing. Here, in Spain, we have practiced it for nearly sixteen years. We have some very good places for Diving: in southern Spain (Andalusia), and some excellent locations in Northern Africa. To get normal catches, we must dive to an average depth of 15 meters. (A Meter is 39.37 inches. Ed.)

Speaking for myself—I gave up Spearfishing (as has happened to so many others) in favor of marine photography. A breathing device, The Lung, was responsible for this change in action. I am considered a pioneer of Lung Diving. in Spain, and having equipped myself with a new underwater weapon—the underwater camera—I am, again, shooting fish.

However, I'm shooting them with highly friendly "shots" and strangely enough, they seem to sense my brand new, good feelings, remaining quiet and posing for pictures with

such good manners!

Awhile back, the use of the lung for underwater spearfishing was forbidden in Spain. I had nothing to do with this lawmaking, but I must abide by it. So I fear that my future writings must only make reference to underwater exploration and photography, archeological items and also on speleologic searches.

I would like to transcribe, here, an excerpt from a chapter out of my book (soon to be published in Spain), *The Call Of The Depth*. This chapter is entitled, The Mystery Of Mcdas Islands, and refers to the interesting and breathtaking exploration of a great cavern which pierces through all the islands, from 20 to 28 meters below the surface of the sea.

Medas Islands are situated in the magnificent Costa Brava in Catalonia near a village named Estartit. They are famous for their landscapes, the transparency of the water and the red coral of their depths.

I quote from my book:

"In one of my diving trips to Costa Brava I heard this story for the first time: 'The huge, granite mass of Medas Islands are sustained over three rocky columns. The remainder of its base is a large, unexplored and mysterious submarine cave.' I felt an eagerness to know the truth or the fantasy of this . . . theory! Originally, I planned to investigate this mysterious cavern with several friends, but unexpected events prevented them from meeting me in Estartit, and so I went alone to attend the adventure.

I made friends with an old fisherman, named Felix, who soon promised to guide me down to the gloomy entrance of the cave. For many years Felix—hardened by the sea and the harsh winds—had expertly accompanied Greek Coral Fish divers, exploiting the coral richness of the coast; and Felix knew perfecty the locations of the innumerable caverns.

Came the day we embarked to the Medas Islands mystery! I had everything I needed: lung, camera and electric torch. At the foot of a wild looking cliff, Felix anchored the small boat and turned to me. "This is the place," he said. "At 20 meters you will find a great entrance, but only 8 meters beneath the sea—or so those Greek divers said—there exists a narrow hole that connects with the main entrance. From there, you can go through any of them."

Really I could-if I dared to . . .

0

I put on the lung, checked the electric lamp and provided myself with a respectable dose of courage. Plunging into the sea, I dove straight to the bottom—closely following the cliff underwater. My intention was to pass through the tunnel, should I be lucky enough to find it, and explore its walls and ceiling for precious coral. I was very disappointed at having to make the dive alone, but I wasn't going to

allow either disappointment or nervousness to cheat me out

of solving the mystery of the cavern. I had set my watch for half the time I expected my air supply to last; a normal reserve not being quite enough to get into and out of the cavern. However, finding no sign of the main entrance, I went back up to the surface and, following a short rest, dove again.

At 8 meters I found the narrow opening this time! A dark hole, 2 meters wide, just as Felix had described! Swimming to it, I saw pale light at the end of its gallery and a writhing swarm of small fish darting in and out of it. I advanced through the odd passage toward the light and discovered a large pit which descended, perpendicularly, to the bottom—twisting and following upward to free air in a fissure of the coast.

It was *really* a sight to see-sunbeams penetrating that natural skylight, illuminating the fanciful walls of the wide well! Bubbles from my lung broke the quiet surface with a noisy, happy, burbling sound.

Shortly thereafter, I started for the bottom. In some places, the width of the pit was about 3 meters, and my depthmeter read 20 meters at its end. Slowly, I turned around. At one side I guessed the light of open sea, through the main entrance; on the other side—the 4 meters wide, 5 meters high black mouth of the tunnel held the secret I sought.

Would I dare decipher it? Nervously, I lit my electric torch, its white rays lost in the darkness. I approached the walls and cautiously entered, glancing backwards from time to time. In the counterlight of the yawning entrance, undulating clouds of fish created a scene of great beauty!

I swam up to the ceiling and marveled at it! The rocky vault was thickly encrusted with a rough mantle of biologic growth of wonderful color, dominated by the intense red of coral branches that shone like frozen blood in the harsh glare of my torch. Whichever way I looked, I saw that luxuriant coral vegetation, so beautiful and so difficult to describe: suitable to a poet's or writer's descriptive powers. And I have neither. I can only offer the reader my interpretation of a fantastic sight.

Possibly I was the first human being who profaned—no, that's not the word—who admired that weirdly beautiful manifestation of nature. It was completely dark inside the tunnel and the light at the entrance was very diffused,

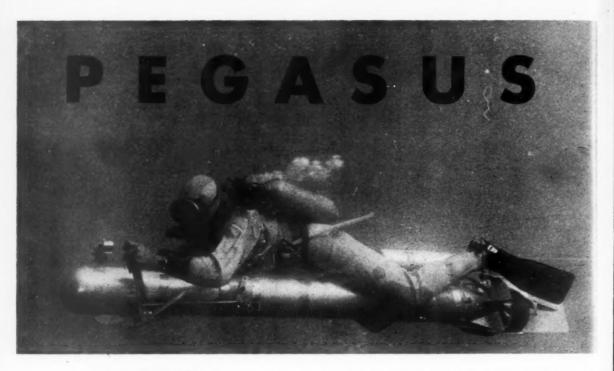
I had forgotten my diving time and was really surprised when I began noticing the first signs of exhausted air tanks. Reluctantly, I abandoned my search and surfaced. I didn't realize it, but I had not yet even guessed the secret of the great cavern.

A few days later, I returned with my good diver-friend, Robert Diaz. As before, Felix took us to the same site at the base of the cliff. We dove at once and, knowing the way, I resolutely entered the narrow gallery, closely followed by my comrade. When we reached the well, I studied his

(Continued on Page 29)

Medas Island diagram indicating depths.

SKIN DIVER-December, 1956



## By DIMITRI REBIKOFF

Cannes, France

HROUGH the magic of modern science "Pegasus" the winged horse of mythology has become a real thing, with a slight variant however, since it happens underwater, in underwater world, the conquest of which has just begun.

Our submarine "Pegasus" is in fact the product of the marriage of the submarine and of a plane. From the submarine it takes the electric engine and batteries, its hull resisting to 200 meters depth, its propeller and depth rudders, but at the same time it is a plane by its gear shift, its instrument panel which makes possible flying without visibility, its relative velocity, its acrobatic possibilities.

But it is in fact much more than an authentic electric fish which is ridden by a "diving jockey" lying down, holding it tight with the knees, like a rider on a galloping pure bred horse, but lying down even more to give as little drag as possible to the violent current, because "Pegasus" can reach speeds that can compete with the fastest fishes.

This is the final result of long experiments which like the perfecting of modern planes, went from the individual submarine powered by foot, built by the American Holland in 1875, and simultaneously by the Russian engineer Drzewiecki (in 1877), without forgetting the famous Italian mounted torpedoes which were none other than classical war torpedoes with a saddle and stirrup, to say nothing of our first torpedoes used in submarine moving pictures and the heavy but powerful "propulseur" of the G.E.R.S. in Toulon.

Our readers all know that for about five years we have been experimenting on a miniature torpedo intended for towing divers who hold on to two handles.

It has been found out that these torpedoes are precious in so far that they multiply the radius of activity of the diver, thanks to their speed of 1½ knots, already superior to the diver's speed and to their self running time of more than 2 hours, this being possible by the astonishing silver-zinc storage battery built by Andyar.

When exploring underwater, one feels infinitely weak in front of the size of the sea either on the surface or below. However, before dreaming of seeing the submarine world at 4000 meters and below, this being possible now with the extraordinary bathyscaphe of Professor Piccard of the French Navy, one can explore near the shores, this represents a large fraction of the underwater world and an interesting one at that since it is precisely the richest one in fishes and also the richest in wrecks due to the nearness of the shores.

But it is impossible to think of exploring even a small portion of the area near the coast merely by swimming. Indeed the maximum time a diver with three bottles can stay under water is one hour at 10 meters and one-half hour only at 30 meters. It is practically very difficult to go further than 200 meters from the boat, because there is just about enough air for the way back.

One of the reasons of such a short radius of activity is that the hydrodynamic brake of the automonous diver in spite of its small size is greater than the diver's. It is for this reason and also on account of weight outside water that it is possible to equip the diver with large bottles.

A few hundred meters of radius of activity is ridiculous when compared to the size of the ocean, even when compared with ten kilometers or more required for the exploration of a small section of the coast.

That is why diving of the autonomous diver and the use of flippers are a far cry from the old diving suit and lead soles where the radius of activity was 10 meters or so and not enough compared to the size of the field to be explored.

The equivalent of a plane is needed underwater. A first solution was the submarine, which originally was designed not for war purposes but indeed with a view to exploration.

In 1900, we could dream freely in front of the success of the French Navy, of Holland, of Lake, one was getting near the realization of Jules Verne's Nautilus. derstood lute mas fect arm Under marine i

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But the Navy showing how right was the genius writer, understood the great fighting possibilities of a fish-boat, absolute master of the seas by its invisibility and also by its perfect armour, the water around.

Under the work of the engineer Max Laubeuf, the submarine fish was put aside to work instead on submersible torpedoes moving on the water and submerging for the fight which was watched through the periscope.

From 1900 until now, all submarines of the entire world were copied with minor improvements from the original submarine of Laubeuf.

The submarine is too big and too heavy to maneuver near rocks, besides it is not made for that. Its size, on the contrary, enables it to cross the oceans. It cannot be maneuvered around rocks at the bottom of the sea. There is no way for a diver to leave the ship. There are no port-holes which would be too vulnerable in case of fight, it is too complicated and too costly to take care of and to use, it has too many instruments like periscope, torpedoes, tubes, etc. . . therefore the submarine cannot be used for any submarine exploration.

In the last 50 years of patrolling and fighting around the entire world, submarines have not brought any progress to oceanography except for a little knowledge about density and temperatures of the water below the surface.

Something else was needed for exploration. A small vehicle was needed, small, therefore cheap and of moderate upkeep, small enough to go in any crevasse or deep fissures at the bottom of the sea and also small enough to enter wrecks and get out.

The need called for a diver with his equipment, a diver free in the water, he being able to observe and to do things, and not a blind prisoner locked up in a steel tube.

Control had to be done by one man, not like in the dassical submarine where three men are at the wheel, one takes care of the direction, one of the balance of the ship and one is responsible for diving, this is too expensive and cannot be used in exploration.

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Powerful search lights are needed, a moving picture camera and also a complete set of instruments to guide the ship underwater.

A first step was accomplished during the war by the Italian torpedoes manned by two men, the one in front in charge of direction and diving by means of a small wheel, the second man on the back would keep the vehicle afloat during the first part of the fight with the help of a ballast which, when full, would make the vehicle go down at a maximum of 10 meters or so, enough to go under the hull of the attacked ship and set there a heavy explosive. In fact, these mounted torpedoes were very primitive, they could not follow a straight line at a specific depth underwater, neither make any acrobatic maneuvers. There was only one depth rudder in the rear, not enough to assure precise control over a certain route underwater.

Moreover, the Italian vehicles were very heavy (about 2000 kilos) their speed and radius of activity were shortened on account of the limited capacity of lead batteries which were used. More recently our own moving picture torpedo was created to give more speed and safety to the diver-explorer. This torpedo made for amateurs is of moderate price, does not weigh more than 14 to 18 kilos, according to the type, it has an engine of ½HP, one or two bulbs of 800 watts each which light up the bottom of the sea and enables colored moving pictures with small equipment as simple and as autonomous as the breathing apparatus.

During this time the G.E.R.S. of Toulon built a "propulseur" for military use with lead batteries in a steel hull they are heavier than moving picture torpedoes for the same work.

(Continued on Page 10)

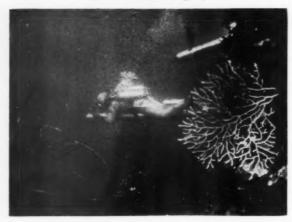


The modern "broom of a witch" takes off with the energy and suddenness of a stick of dynamite. The jockey gets a good feel of the reins and sets a compass course . . . his underwater friends are awed by his spectacular acrobatics . . . he is too. Photo Ada Rebikoff Niggeler.

Powering down through a deep crevasse, Pegasus carries its rider to great depths in a minimum of time. Dimitri's ears soon became accustomed to the rapid ups and downs. Photo by Stan Waterman.



(Continued from Page 9)



The camera momentarily stops the speedy flight of Pegasus as it cruises around the huge rock. Pegasus has all of the controls of a modern day submarine. Photo by Stan Waterman.

We soon found out, like the GERS technicians, that it is impossible to move by hand a torpedo or propulsor, as long as its power is stronger than the diver's strength, which is easy to understand. Of course, on one HP torpedo or better two HP, one sees that the torpedo goes straight ahead, no matter how hard the diver tries to make it change its course. The diver is soon exhausted after hard efforts which consume lots of air, he has to stop, turn the torpedo while swimming around, and then start for another direction, stop after 20 meters. . . Such a maneuver underwater is not only very hard, but it has nothing to do with control which makes possible a submarine exploration of a large area, during several hours.

I then tried to add to my torpedo one by one, a depth rudder and vertical rudder like on the classical submarine. First a vertical rudder, then a depth rudder in the rear, but this was not satisfactory. The biggest problem was to have one man in charge and able to control completely a fast and easy to handle vehicle, unlike the classical submarine, where three men are needed at the wheel, or the Italian torpedo manned by two divers.

The only rational solution was a combination of gear shift and rudder bar created for planes by Esnault-Pelterie, system permitting perfect control of any moving vehicle in the three dimensions of space.

But a submarine is not quite a plane. First, the density of the water is 770 times superior to the density of air, then water cannot be compressed, besides our vehicle does not weigh anything underwater, not even 10 grams and is therefore in perfect equilibrium just like a balloon or a dirigible.

It took several years of hard work, as per principles explained in "Science et vie" of July 1952, to come up with a system of control simple and automatical, being taken care of by one man who needs a free hand for control of the engine and auxiliaries such as search light, 4000 watts light for the camera, horn, etc. . . .

We have been able to realize after many diving trials and many long nights of work in the shop, a system of control simple and strong that any diver can learn in one lesson.

#### KEY OF THE SEA

When I put my left hand on the control, holding the vehicle firmly with my knees, the feet well placed on the rudder bar, the handle bar secured under my arms, it was with some apprehension that I put my finger on the very small lever which, through electro-magnetic relay, similar in

a small size to two of an electric train, was going to start the four electric engines of a total of two HP.

What was going to happen? Was I going to maneuver underwater like a fish or on the contrary would my vehicle go spinning under the effect of the reaction of the propeller? This was a wonderful feeling . . . I left the sand bottom where "Pegasus" was resting and rocketed towards the surface. Before I had time to push the control I jumped out of the water quite unvoluntarily and then fell in an ocean of foam—but control was easy and all I needed to do was to push forward, ever so slightly, the control handle to dive.

Luckily, my ears did not give me any trouble that day in spite of the difference in pressure. I fell to the bottom after a vertiginous nose dive. After a natural reflex I pulled the control handle towards me and then I saw the bottom becoming parallel. How wonderful... Just hold the control handle straight and then follow the bottom at a great speed, speed never reached when I swim and yet I am only in "second" (Pegasus has three speeds like a car). A lateral pressure of one centimeter gives me an inclination of 15° first to the left, then to the right. This is wonderful... I can spin horizontically at will. What a pity that I am not a seasoned air pilot, it would be easier to handle the pure bred horse which however responds very well to any move of the control handle.

To begin I turn around my ship lying at anchor not to lose sight of her and also not to go too far from my wife and friends Barnier and Piroux so that they can come to my rescue if need be. It is easy to use the rudder bar.

But soon I make the classical mistake of all beginners in aviation. I jam the controls. Every time I push with my right foot on the rudder bar to turn to the right, unvoluntarily I push down the gear shift to the left, as a result I do such acrobatic stunts that I look very funny in the eyes of my friends. At times, I am on my back, or else I spin up, straight out of the water like a dolphin or else I make a very unsual loop.

In a plane, the pilot fears loss of speed which can be fatal On this vehicle even if I lose completely my bearings under the effect of dizziness and the difference of pressures, all I have to do is to stop the engines. Pegasus stops instantly, remains still underwater in a perfect horizontal position. This is due to the fact that it is so well balanced that instantly it goes back to a horizontal position, making the difference between bottom and top like a plumb-line. All I have to do is to look up or down to see where I am. I soon found out that after I left my friends, thanks to the extraordinary speed of the vehicle I am in a strange place.

Therefore it is a must to use a compass and depth manometer, to keep an eye on them at all times if one wants to ride without visibility.

This is very simple. When I leave a known spot, for instance, the ship under which my friends are, they cannot keep up with me. I have to watch the compass and follow it during the exploration. For instance, we are now above "The tombant du Vengeur" (a rock underwater), if I head south, I will go towards the coast of Ste Marguerite Island. I can either navigate underwater at a chosen depth, for instance 10 or 35 meters with the help of a manometer or on the contrary go near the bottom of the sea and watch the scenery, very much like a plane flying low. This is perfectly safe since I can stop at will, without reversing the engines

On arrival at destination, for example near the coast all I have to do is to check the time of the ride on the chronograph and to head straight towards north, to go straight ahead while watching the chronograph. Every time I am surprised and pleased to find myself in a friendly environment to see the hull of the ship balancing herself gracefully

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on the waves of the sky as the surface looks to me — the anchor — the other torpedoes resting on the bottom, and my friends who can't believe their eyes and look at me with fear and envy.

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Now Pegasus is tamed. I can make it do what I want. We are now above "The Tombant du Vengeur" the top of which is at 12 meters below the surface and the bottom at 45 meters. It is very impressive and all the more as the sea is rough and the water muddy — it is very dark below and visibility is hardly 5 meters. We are in a real submarine pea soup.

My wife goes first with her moving picture torpedo of a classical type, smaller than Pegasus — soon she is set at a depth of about 30 meters from where she can see me and take my picture as I move near the rock. My friends Barnier and Piroux are there, also an American diver Stan Waterman who also has a camera. He is absolutely dumfounded by the diabolical invention of the darn French. Now I will try the third speed, above four knots, high speed for a diver. First a little ride above the sea weeds. What an experiment . . . The current is so strong that it nearly tears away the mouthpiece, it stretches to a maximum the pipes and nearly tears away the mask.

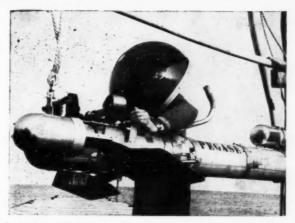
Luckily the straps of the mask and the mouthpiece had been reinforced before. The weather is getting bad and we cannot stay very long. The next time "Pegasus" will have a transparent hood to protect me against the current.

I turn around and arrive above the whirlpool. Now I go down vertically on the side of the rock. What an extraordinary feeling . . . If it were not for the rapid increase of pressure in my ears and the rising of the needle of the manometer, I would feel like walking horizontally on a horizontal rock. I see fishes absolutely still, they are paralyzed with fright at the sight of such a strange noisy shark which leaves bubbles behind him . . . In a very short time, the manometer reads 40 meters and I find myself on a rock at 45°.

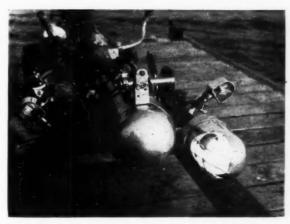
It is very tempting to keep on going deeper and deeper. But a long discipline of diving has taught me that 40 meters is the limit where it is safe for one man to go alone under normal circumstances. It is with very much regret that I turn around and head for the surface. I go very near a coral bank that I can see from below. I do not see the surface. It is too muddy but I can guess where it is since my bubbles stop there. Let us have some light. Under two search lights of 2000 watts the sight is breath taking, a fairy land of red and gold is around me. Unfortunately I can't see anymore, because the muddy water is affected by the light. It is safer to turn off the lights, to look out for the rock, have an eye on the instruments and go back to the surface at full speed. I mean in third speed. I look at the chronograph. It took me 15 seconds to ride the 30 meters, it being the difference between the bottom of the "Vengeur" and the top of the "Tombant". One must not exaggerate, I spent only one minute below, therefore the shock that kills divers is not to be feared. Just the same there is a decompression from 5 to 1 atmosphere. I am going up spirally and I surface about 100 meters from the ship anchored at several kilometers from the coast.

What an extraordinary situation. I feel more at ease at 40 meters below the surface than on the surface. Besides my friends are below and I am sure they are worried. Down I go – a few seconds – I see the edge of the rock – 15 seconds – I am all the way down – It is very exciting to go up and down at will on the side of the rock. I zigzag – make a few curves, go away from the rock at full speed in the muddy blue water at 35 meters below, following a course to the north on the compass, navigating for one minute, then

(Continued on Page 15)



Front view of "Pegasus" showing the forward hydroplanes which are steered independently by a patented differential system. Diving is controlled with the left hand. The rider is held in position by the reversed handle bars showing just behind Marcel Rousseau.

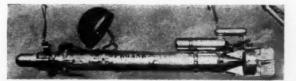


Head-on view—left to right, 35 watt head lamp; 16mm camera; speed lever with motor and camera controls; instrument board with composs, chronograph, depth-meter; control stick; 2000 watt light for camera; 35 watt head light.



Recharging—This is done exactly as aboard a normal sub except that charging unit is not contained in machine. This accounts partly for the lightness of Pegasus, only 90 pounds. Electric charger (on the left) takes less than one hour to recharge. Cornelius compressor (right) refills diver's tanks and ballost control.

Underwater flyer looks like a rocket. Photos by Dimitri Rebikoff.





Fresh from Davy Jones' Locker, diver Tom Eisner returns to the whaleboat after a photo mission. Note light meter around his neck.

Sam Dabney, formerly a Navy diver now working with the U.S. Geological Survey party, makes an effective entrance into the water. Not exactly right, but effective.



## On San Nicholas Island . . .

## THE NAVY HUNTS FOR OIL

(from Ariel)

Official U. S. Navy Photographs By Conrad Forbes, Ph3

In spite of the growing importance of nuclear power the American Navy is still dependent upon oil. During World War II petroleum made up more than half of the total tonnage this country shipped overseas. America and her allies required seven billion barrels of oil to keep their war machines moving.

The Navy's search for this vital material, instigated by the Naval Petroleum Reserve Board, has now extended to desolate San Nicolas Island about 60 miles off the California coast where the Naval Air Missile Test Center maintains men and facilities for the testing of guided missiles.

The premilinary exploration began early in the spring of 1955 as the result of a visit to the island last year by geologists from the Naval Electronics Laboratory, San Diego, on other business. The group noted that the island's topography might indicate the presence of oil. Their report found its way to the Naval Petroleum Reserve Board which requested the U. S. Geological Survey, (an activity of the Department of the Interior) to undertake an exploratory survey.

Geologist John Vedder is project chief and working with him are Dr. Robert Norris, professor of geology at Santa Barbara College; Sam Dabney, an ex-Navy diver and geology student at Santa Barbara; Tom Eisner, mining engineering student, doing research projects at Cal Tech.

Vedder is the only full-time U.S.G.S. employee on the project. The others will return to their college occupations shortly. (Dr. Norris had studied San Nicolas Island in 1950 with the Scripps Institution of Oceanography and for that reason was employed to assist in the current operation.) Vedder, during the winter months when further work on the island is halted by inclement weather, will compile a report of the summer's activities.

Simply, these activities consist of mapping in detail the rock types and securing samples for fossil determination.

Operations have not been confined to the island alone. Vedder, Eisner and Dabney are qualified 'frogmen' and when the weather is favorable spend the day at sea taking samples from the ocean floor around San Nicolas Island.

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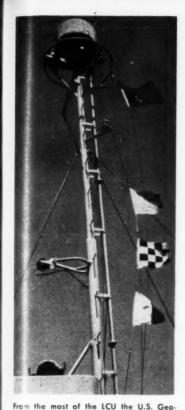
SKIN DIVER-December, 1956

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from the mast of the LCU the U.S. Geological Survey ensign flies Navy signal flags indicating the 'underwater survey work is being conducted'.

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Prior to a diving operation the survey group poses with equipment needed. Included are both movie and still cameras for underwater photography.

Loaded down with diving gear a whaleboat prepares to leave the larger LCU. Boats used are furnished by the Navoi Air Missile Test Center's Island Facilities Dept. at Point Mugu, California.



SKIN DIVER-December, 1956

Before transferring from the LCU to the whaleboat for diving operations survey group plans dives to be made and area to be covered. Clockwise from lower left are Tom Eisner, Jack Vedder, Dan Milton, Sam Dabney and Bob Norris. Echo sounding gear on the plotting table is capable of reading ocean depth to the inch.





Norm Randall swims along the slope at 120 feet looking for coins tossed by tourists in the glass bottom boats.



Diver Bob Brown peers down into the 185 foot abyss of the world's deepest spring. The group had one hour to complete the dive.

# DIVING IN THE WORLD'S DEEPEST SPRING

By MARV JONES, JR.

The very first time I saw the marvelous spectacle of Florida's Wakulla Springs, I made up my mind that someday I would dive there with my lung, even though divers were forbidden in the spring. With my fins and mask I floated along the surface peering down into the 185' abyss. On a clear day and if the sun were right one could see about 140' down. There the springs continued down under a ledge and one could see no deeper unless he dove about 40' down. That was my first trip to the spring and I thought it one of the most beautiful sights I had ever seen.

On my next trip to Wakulla, I was to see the manager, Mr. Stane, and try to get his help in securing permission from the State Capitol for two divers and myself to dive there and get pictures for this article for "Skin Diver," Mr. Stane was wonderfully cooperative and said that he thought he could get the permission for us in about two weeks' time. I agreed that myself and the other two divers would be there Saturday, two weeks hence. Mr. Stane spoke as though he was sure he could obtain the permission.

Upon returning to Lake City and telling Bob Brown and Norm Randall, my two diving partners, about this, they yelled aloud in joy. They too had always wanted to dive in the world's deepest spring.

The two weeks passed agonizingly slow. However, the day finally came. It was Saturday and our day! We had made all sorts of plans and were sure that we had overlooked nothing. We loaded all our gear, plus a spare lung that we were to place down 140' in case of trouble. Next thing we were on the highway headed towards a true adventure!

Upon arriving at the spring, which is just south of Tallahassee, we went to the office to check with Mr. Stane and make sure everything was complete. He asked that we sign insurance releases so that in case anything happened, the insurance company would not be liable. This was merely routine, but something that the insurance company de-

manded. We were to be allowed one hour's diving time. Thirty minutes on the first dive, then a rest period of thirty minutes to warm and rest up, and then a final thirty minutes on the last dive. The spring stays at a constant 70 degrees temperature so we chose not to wear our suits because of the presure at the greater depths.

On the first dive, Bob and Norm circled about the ledge prior to descending so I could get some shots of them over the ledge. I took some here that I thought would come out fairly well and then motioned them to deeper water. I had them circle about the face of the cliff and thought I had gotten several good shots here also. We then swam down to 120' and looked around at all the beautiful sights to be seen there. The most beautiful sight of all being the face of the cliff that tapered off and formed something of a tunnel down to the bottom. At the end of the almost vertical tunnel it was reputed to be 185' deep. This we would check on the second dive, Time passed unbelievably fast and our first 30 minutes was up. We started the long ascent to the surface

On top, Bob and Norm dried off and lay down in the sun to warm up. I myself was busy with the camera, getting it out of the case and getting another roll of film into the camera as I had just about used all of the first roll. I also wanted to get a few color shots later on.

On the second dive we did not stop on our descent. We went straight to 140'. Bob had carried the spare lung with him this time and there he placed it. I took several shots of the divers. Norm continued down to 165'. Suddenly he turned around like a flash and headed towards me at 140' He stopped by me and through very mumbled talking and sign language I asked him what was wrong. He pointed his finger towards his head and circled it, meaning he had gotten dizzy. This I could not understand as one is not supposed to get nitrogen narcosis at these depths, I didn't think.

Bob and This tin it happe ting a re air taste stand th narcosis to be a and he tioned t the othe few mor thorough must als pring. 1 ing to st

Norm Ran feet. He reaching t lieved tha

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Bob and myself thereupon went down with him and kept a close eye on him. This time he appeared to be ok. Then it happened to me! At 170' I started getting a real slight dizzy sensation and my air tasted very bitter. I couldn't understand this as these were not the nitrogen narcosis symptoms I had always heard of. Bob was right with me and he seemed to be alright. Norm was then at 180' and he seemed to be o.k., also. I motioned that I was going up a little and the other boys followed me. We spent a few more minutes looking around and thoroughly enjoyed the scenery of what must also be the world's most beautiful spring. I motioned again that I was going to surface and reload my camera.

On top I put in the roll of color film



Norm Randall having dizzy sensations at 165 feet. He later lost these sensations upon reaching the 140 foot level. The divers believed that impure air was responsible.

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I had brought along and re-entered the water promptly. I got several shots of the boys on their way up and they also went down for me again so I could get some shots of the descent. I photographed the various fish and marine life and then we decided to call it a day as all our reserve valves were working and just about out.

On the surface we figured there must have been some foreign substance in our air to have caused the sensations we had at those comparatively shallow depths. We would definitely have to check on this later.

The trip was agreed by all concerned that it was by far the most wonderful diving experience we had ever had. We should remember this as long as we live. I sincerely urge everyone that hasn't seen this beautiful spring to do so if they have the chance. They too would long remember seeing the world's largest and deepest; and I'm sure, the world's most beautiful spring.

### **PEGASUS**

(Continued from Page 11)

turning around, going south at the same depth and then see the black rock getting near. I take a turn to the right and 50 centimeters away I see the rock which looks like it is falling over—I turn around to my wife, above her—she is taking pictures as the lights of the camera are on.

The successive going up and down have cleared my ears, they have adapted themselves to the rapid changes. Let's take advantage of it — I rocket to the surface, jump out of the water like a dolphin, yell with joy, down I go again — 10, 20, 40, 45 meters shows the manometer — watch out — up again.

In hardly 15 minutes, I go down six times to the bottom and up again, I have not dived that much in a whole summer.

My friends who are taking pictures are as excited as I am, we have a sub-marine which is a plane — a plane which is a horse — a horse which is a fish. We have mastered the sea, the bottom of that sea every inch of it we are going to explore.

After half an hour of diving my friends have to come up. As for me I still play around going down and up like crazy on the side of the "Vengeur" which becomes quite familiar.

I do not have to swim, the engines of the "Pegasus" do the work, I do not need as much air as they do. However, I do not want them to worry — At any rate this proves that with "Pegasus" one can navigate alone, there is no need for a team. With a second Pegasus ridden by a friend we could navigate like an escadrille. This is our goal for next summer.

When finally I reach the ship, after a last spiral, it is with much regret that I stop the engine exactly under the ship, I bring "Pegasus" at about 10 centimeters from the ropes which will be used to put it on board. I tie "Pegasus" and go to my friends who are taking off their rubber suits.

What they have seen, what I have felt is like the feeling of having opened wide the door of a new world full of uncalculable treasures, thanks to the modern "broom of a witch."

## Christmas only comes once a Year!



- \* with a gift every month in '57
- \* Special "Skin Diver" subscription blank on Page 28

## Teach 'Em Young



Ted Alan Mayo of Glendale, California, will soon be joining his dad, Ted Mayo, on his weekly excursions to the underwaterland. Teddy is now 2½ years old and has been swimming regularly for six months. Ted, Sr., a student at Los Angeles School of Chiropractic, is organizing an underwater club there.

Phillipa Lord, 8 years old of Mt. Desert, Maine. Miss Lord is the constant diving companion of Dolores MacCarthy (page 21, October issue) and does an excellent job of diving to depths of 15 feet. She is a natural swimmer and cold water doesn't faze her in the least. Next summer Dolores will teach her to use a spear. Phillipa attends the Brearley-School in New York City.







... It's becoming quite obvious (to even a near-sighted Idealist like me) that we shall soon have a romping good thing, here. Your letters have been arriving—fat, fast and furious—and they continue to make fascinating reading. Here, lemme show you . . .

FEMININE LOGIC DIVISION

Concerning John H.'s letter—stating he didn't like his wife "tagging along": evidently, she's stiff competition. However, tell him not to feel bad—there are quite a few wives who can outdive their husbands. I'm a "tag along", myself, and I bring two little "tag alongs", too.

Mrs. Lorraine G., San Fernando, Calif.

Bully for the three of you-and heartfelt sympathy for your husband, Lorraine.

Anytime I can't "tag along"-nobody goes diving. This is a modern world, not the dark ages. Sure, my husband shows signs of preferring I would stay home, but he's no Lord And Master—and he either takes me with him, to share the fun, or he knows he might as well just forget about the whole thing. I think that John H. needs a wife with a strong mind of her own.

Betty Lou J., Sarasota, Florida

Well, that's your opinion, lady.

My husband would never dream of making us stay home when he goes diving. He loves me and he loves our sons. He likes having us with him to watch his skill in skin diving, and to be there, waiting for him, when he comes ashore with the seagoing bacon. Besides, he knows he would have if he didn't insist on our going along.

Jean M., Detroit, Michigan Besides, he knows he would have to eat out of cans, all week long,

Dirty pool, Jean, dirty pool.

MEANWHILE, BACK ON THE BEACH
We have troubles. Our Club is being seriously affected by our wives thinking we are spending too much time diving. We meet once a week and go on field trips once or twice a month. We've once a week and go on neid trips once or twice a month. We vehad good members drop out because of their wives. If you, or anyone, would write to us—giving how a Diving Club should be organized, your experience with wives and how you quelled the rebellion—we would greatly appreciate it.

Amarillo Skin Divers Assn., Amarillo, Texas

What makes you think anybody ever quelled the rebellion, you dreamer? And, as far as my experience with wives . . .

Man, I sure am glad I'm single! No worrying about some dame nagging to go along, when I want to do a little spearfishing, and

no kids to drive me crazy and ruin my gear. No sir, I don't envy the married guys-at least, when it comes down to going skin diving, and the girl I marry will have to see things my way,

Jack W., Seattle, Washington

What you need is a wife with a strong mind of her own.

DEPARTMENT OF UTTER CONFUSION

I would like to know who dredged you off the bottom of 100 fathoms? He should be banned, from the scientific world, for the to your page in each month's Skin Diver. I think it is a terrific idea, and I hope it will last for a long time.

Gary P., Pacific Grove, Calif.

Make up your mind, will ya?

Your participation in the Skin Diver would seem to indicate that you are rather unique—a sage, comic and skin diver rolled into one. The Driftwood page I like, and your (excuse the expression)

cartoons are funny (?); but what about the skin diving angle? Have you ever done anything in salt water aside from deep diving? (I attribute your cartoons to nitrogen narcosis.)

S/Sgt. Herbert J., Randolph A.F.B., Texas You do, eh. Well, that's only because you study nights. What do I do in salt water? Oh, eye exercises, calisthenics . . .

Your magazine has been a constant source of very good information on safety and the latest of all kinds of diving tips. Let us extend our personal thanks for the best magazine we know. Say tell Kohler he's great. I guess he knows it though-so, if his head balloons to obnoxious proportions, send him up here. We've got a great big beautiful lake, and it's a wonderfully cold head shrinker. Dick M., Houghton, Michigan

I've already got a qualified head shrinker—and he says you guys should work your own side of the street and leave his patients

What do you think about those backward boys in New England? If Miss Dolores MacCarthy lived in Chicago, she sure as hell wouldn't be diving alone. Tell the boss we love the magazine, but to give that fiction the deep six.

Bill A., Chicago, Illinois

I can tell them . . . but I can't tell them much.

SUGGESTIONS, INCORPORATED

I would like to make a suggestion: Why not start a Skin Divers Pal Club? This way, skin divers all over the U.S .- and the world, for that matter-can come closer together and, perhaps, exchange ideas on the sport and talk about the different adventures they've had. I'd like to start this thing off by saying: I'm willing to exchange letters with any boy or girl who is interested in. or who has done any, skin diving. My name is Charles Hili, Jr., I am 22, and have been skin diving for three years now.

Charles Hili, Jr. Box 282 Bayville, Long Island New York

Anyone for this caper? Lemme know if you want your name and address, in full, printed here. And—dibs on all the ash-blondes with green eyes.

Why don't you stick your head (and your facetious old column along with it) into a bucket of water three times, and only take it out twice?

Dedy M., Newark, New Jersey

Am I correct in assuming you don't care for us?

Kohler, you may not realize it, but you're the Elvis Presley of the Underwater Set.

Harry Du V., Portland, Oregon

Don't . . . say . . . things . . . like . . . that, Hounddawg.

I agree with Laura Louise H., in the November issue, as far as your Driftwood column is concerned. You simply cannot blend serious letters and offhand, corny replies successfully. Better humorists than you have tried—and lost every time. You just cannot carry it off without injuring people's feelings and dignity.

Mary K., Covington, Kentucky

I can't, eh? You must be new around here, sis.

OH, NO - NOT AGAIN!

Why don't you tell Mr. Jerry N. about the legal limit on Manta Ray before he spends a fortune on postage stamps. Our Club has no limit on number, but we do limit the size and procedure: We may spear them only if they are over 16-feet, 6½-inches across, and we use a 6-foot pole spear with five-tine head. Yours for bigger and better Ray sticking.

Ben D., Montgomery, Alabama

Well, I suppose you gotta have some rules.

The legal limit on Manta Ray is the same as on medium grown Male Sperm Whales. If it's permissible to answer a question with an analogy. Right?

J. T. M., Kansas City, Missouri

If you say so. Jerry N., are you getting all this?

IT SAYS HERE . . . that a certain young lady would very much enjoy receiving letters and you may write them in English, French, enjoy receiving tetters and you may write them in English, French, Spanish, Italian or Portuguese. Address your happy talk to: Cecile Pumone, Via Saldini 4, Milan, Italy. . . . and with that bit of intriguing information we wind up another unbelievable session of bleached (but seaworthy) Driftwood. See you around.

KOHLER

SKIN DIVER-December, 1956

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# Fiction and Facts About Florida Spearfishing

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By SERGE A. BIRN

The following statements are taken at random from a few very similar letters received by the National A.A.U. Spearfishing Chairman, Serge A. Birn, particularly from Florida. The same statements are being made by a group of Upper Keys residents fighting underwater spearfishing as a sport and wishing to eliminate underwater activities in that State.

These statements are pure fiction. In the interest of truth—the true facts are presented.

- 1. FICTION: "Spearing fish is like shooting buffalo out of a window of railroad cars 50 or 75 years ago." FACT: This is sheer propaganda completely void of truth. Spearing fish for the average skilled spearfisherman is a hard and difficult task. PROOF: In the 1956 Florida open championships, the average catch per team member—a highly skilled spearfisherman was less than 7 pounds in 4 hours. The writer, with 8 years' practice, speared one snapper, 2 pounds, 8 ounces. An average skilled spearfisherman takes in the same period of time less than an average skilled bottom fisherman.
- 2. FICTION: A Florida seafood shipper writes that "Southern lobsters are driven away by blood and debris of speared lobster". FACT: It is illegal to spear lobster in any form and rightly so. In Florida it is even illegal to use "grabbers". Spearfishermen are allowed to take lobsters by hand only a challenging and difficult feat. (Of course, some spearfishermen break this law. But do you prohibit tatching of sailfish because some sailfishermen sell smoked sailfish which is also illegal?)
- 3. FICTION: "Spearfishing in most fresh water has been judged wasteful and destructive of fish." FACT: This is true only of game fish (such as bass). However, when State Conservation Officials enroll the cooperation of AAU spearfishing clubs spearfishing becomes a tremendous aid to conservation, through systematic spearing of large noxious fish like carp, gar, dogfish, catfish which do not readily take bait. In Kentucky, for instance, Conservation officials recently opened spearfishing of noxious fish all year around (it was formerly allowed only 2 months per year).
- 4. FICTION: "In our clear Southern salt waters, the same destructive force can be visualized (meaning destroying fish like in fresh waters)." ANSWER: Look at California. Enlightened California Anglers and California Conservation Officials cooperate with spearfishermen to help conservation. For-instance, in Southern California, a clean up campaign was organized to remove starfish (a pest) from jetties. Tons have been removed.
- 5. FICTION: "Think of a rapid fire speargun" (the writer compares it with a 7 shot automatic shotgun-former-



Mr. Birn demonstrates how lobsters are taken by hand.

ly used for bird hunting). FACT: This is sheer imagination. A "rapid fire spear gun" simply does not exist. A spear gun carries only one spear. Retrieving it and reloading the gun takes one to several minutes. Except for a few species in the grouper family, most fish are gone long before that. Only someone totally ignorant of spearfishing can compare "automatic shotguns for bird hunting" or "dynamite for fishing" with spear guns. (NOTE: The author of these statements frankly admits that he is not a spearfisherman.)

6. FICTION: "In the Bahamas spearfishing is prohibited within five miles from any settlement." FACT: This summer the writer made a 3 week spearfishing cruise through the Bahamas – from Bimini to Exuma Islands, including Nassau (Actually it was a survey of spearfishing conditions.) While the Bahamas have very minor – and very intelligent – limitations on spearfishing, the writer did not find any settlement where spearfishing is prohibited – neither one nor five miles away.

On the contrary, in all settlements visited, there are a number of professional spearfishing guides doing flourishing and legitimate businesses. For instance, the writer was referred to a spearfishing guide by the Nassau Development Board Office. In fact, the approach of the Bahamas to spearfishing is so constructive and so intelligent (same as in California) that we in the AAU are giving serious thoughts to holding in 1957 or 1958 American National Championships in the Bahamas instead of the Florida Keys.

7. FICTION: "There seems to be widespread concern over the end results of spearfishing." FACT: Widespread concern there is — but in the opposite direction. The average sports loving American is concerned over blind opposition to an amateur sport and to Amateur Athletes representing it — an opposition solely based on misconceptions and the hate of an extremely small minority group of professionals. The average American is concerned about the bad publicity this gives to Florida, which is the only State in the Union actively fighting the AAU spearfishermen.

(Continued on Page 28)

## SOUTH AFRICA

## By GORDON LUMLEY

(Editor, South African "Fin Diver" Magazine)

From the cold Atlantic Waters washing the South African shores at Cape Town to the sun drenched tropical seas of Northern Zululand, divers are now looking back on 1956 as the greatest year for the underwater sport. More has been accomplished in firmly establishing diving and divers in the South African way of life than in any other year. This has been the year of spearfishermen, the Scuba enthusiasts and the unification of all clubs.

Spearfishing records have been made to be broken, not once but over and over again. Ken Crellin, Dolphin Club of Port Elizabeth, has held the South African record (82-lb. Kob – Johnius Hololepidotus) for the past 18 months

and this was the only record not to go this year. The Natal record (43-lb. Caran) was beaten no fewer than 13 times. Starting the ball rolling, I took a 52-lb. Barracuda but not three week ends later, Maurice McGregor of the Durban Undersea Club fought the present record for more than half an hour before beaching a 69-lb. Garrick (Hypacanthus Amia).

The annual Sardine run up the East coast of South Africa always brings its attendant Game fishes—and sharks. One after another large Garrick were speared until any fish under 40-lbs. was not considered a worthy catch. Unfortunately, the Garrick did not make an appearance during the 1956 Natal

Spearfishing Championships and owing to almost impossible conditions the catch was small, Bob Smith of Durban became the 1956 Natal Spearfishing Champion at the end of the day's diving (and shivering).

But Natal did not have things all its own way on the spearfishing front. Ken Crellin landed a fine 58-lb. Kob—the second largest fish of the year. A fish worthy of a fine skin diver and first class leader of his club. Watch out for reports on bigger and better catches from the Dolphins in the near future.

The Atlantic Club of Cape Town have been busy building their new club house. Here the icy Bengula cur-



Maurice McGreggor, Durban Undersea Club, and 69-lb. Garrick, the largest fish of the South African spearfishing year.



52-lb. Barracuda type fish taken by Gordon Lumley off Lime Stone Reef, Durban, South Africa. 1956 was an eventful year.

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SKIN DIVER-December, 1956

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rent sweeping up from the Antartic limits diving somewhat but the fellows are getting their share of the fish. In Port Elizabeth (some 400 miles up the coast), the beforementioned Dolphin Underwater Club have been working hard, both in the water and out. So hard in fact that they now have their own club house and a deep-sea fishing compressor soon to be purchased by this enthusiastic band.

In Durban, the two main clubs are becoming more united. The Durban Undersea Club and Associated Divers have taken part in several joint enterprises. Not all South African Clubs are spearfishing minded. The Transvaal Underwater Research Group and Associated Divers are typical examples of organizations concerned mainly in the use of Scuba and the collecting of marine specimens.

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New developments in Scuba have been announced by these organizations during 1956 and expeditions to the world's Southernmost Coral Island—Inhacca have been a great success for the Transvaal Club. Piet Boshoff is Chairman of this Group and an expert on Corals as well as Scuba development has led these trips. Not content with this, he has written, together with A. D. Goosen, a fine work on the Physiology of Diving which will be published shortly.

Another great step forward was the unique event organized and run by the "South African Fin Diver" magazine. This was the "Scuba Reliability Trials" held at the Durban Naval Base. Such obstacles as removal and replacing of all equipment, finding and signing of slates suspended from the bottom and compass swimming in visibility reduced to 10 feet faced the competitors. The following of a lead line and locating the broken continuation while wearing blacked out face masks really sorted the men from the boys. The "Scuba Reliability Trials" were observed by the South African Navy and the event was a great success.

Latest news for Scuba enthusiasts is that the Navy are forming Frogmen Units in cooperation with all South African diving clubs. A sure indication that our sport has arrived. Oxygen rebreathers are popular here. We've had a few accidents but all by beginners who have not approached the clubs for instruction. Gordon Deelman, who is Chairman of Associated Divers, Johan Wormser and myself have used rebreathers for many years. We insist on even the most experienced lung divers receiving instruction on the equipment before being allowed to dive freely with it. South African Scuba clubs believe that accidents with Rebreathers are not caused by this type of Scuba but

# Eventful Attempt On Underwater Endurance Record

(Reprint from March, 1956 issue of SPEARFISHING SPORTLIGHT of Western Australia).

On Saturday, March 3rd, at 12:45 P.M., U.S.F.A.W.A. member, Theo Brown entered the water at Woodmans Point, beginning his attempt on the World Underwater Endurance Record.

After one hour in the water, Theo complained (via a slate) of the onset of a stomach cramp, but considered the pain would wear off.

At 4 P.M. Theo was in worse pain, and soon after could not sit in his underwater seat; he released his lung and lay down on the bottom to ease the pain.

At 7 P.M., he was in dire straights, having vomited a number of times, but refused to leave the water.

At 7:45 P.M. Theo was very ill, and moved into shallower water, where he collapsed into the arms of Tom Osbourne, who then passed him from the water to attendants on the jetty nearby. Theo was taken from the water after seven hours and six minutes, setting up an inaugural state record, or is it an Australian record?

Theo's second attempt took place at Woodmans Point again, where he entered the water at 12:30 P.M., but a leaking rubber suit forced him from the water at ten minutes to two.

At ten past five, he re-entered the

by the divers themselves being inexperienced in its use.

Next year will no doubt be another 'great' in the history of the sport in this country. Standardized rules governing the claiming of spearfishing records are almost complete. Scuba is not used for spearing here nor may a diver employ the use of floats, etc., for purpose of landing his catch. All records are, and always have been, disqualified if assistance of any kind was given once the fish has been speared. This, naturally, handicaps the spearing of our many large Groupers which run over 500 lbs. but when, someday, one of these monsters is landed, it will be a record indeed.

On behalf of the skin divers and clubs throughout South Africa I should like to wish our counterparts in the United States, tight lines, clear water and flippers up for 1957.

water, and this time, things proceeded smoothly, with divers Veronica Ryan, Ken Holmes, Bev Marshall, Tom Osbourne, and Don Ende tending him in shifts. Herb Ende, Harry Dols and Colin Elvert were supervising the refilling arrangements, and Betty Lee and Betty Ende were keeping hot food up to the diving team and Theo.

At about 8 P.M., Manager John Lee dived down to have a word with Theo, and on returning to the surface, announced that the night was presenting no difficulties to Theo.

At 9:15, divers jumped to action stations when the red buoy signalling a shark alarm popped to the surface. About ten minutes later, the red buoy was pulled down, and the white emergency buoy came up.

John Lee answered the emergency, and when he returned to the surface, told us that the shark had been about a ten foot brute, dark brown in color. Veronica Ryan had just left the water after serving Theo a hot thermos of soup, when both red buoy and white surfaced together. Ken Holmes grabbed a triple rubber bazooka and leapt into the water; Don Ende grabbed Barry Martin's camera with a flash bulb of five million lumens illumination, and also went below. On reaching the bottom, things were found to be in a state of chaos.

Theo's seat (made from a 44 gallon drum, filled with stones, and which 3 men could barely lift) had been knocked over; Theo had been knocked sideways; the shark had bitten a piece from the leg of his rubber suit, and left four teeth marks on it, and had then completely disappeared with his compressed air gun.

It seems, that as Theo sat patrolling the deep water in front of him with his spotlight, the shark (unidentified) sneaked around the light, and attacked from the side.

Sixth sense made Theo look around, just in time to see the huge fish right on him; in the same movement, he swung his gun around and fired!

The next thing he knew, he was on his back with water seeping through his underwear. Where the spear went, he didn't know.

Theo left the water three quarters of an hour later, because once again, his suit was full of water. Early next morning, Bev Marshall found Theo's gun some distance away, with the barrel bent at about thirty degrees; the spear, which was laid nearby, had the head snapped off and was bent at approximately 60 degrees, so it was quite obvious that he had scored a hit!

When the next attempt will be, we are not sure; there will be another, but it will probably be in a tank!!!



Dr. Eugenia Clark examining captured specimens in Florida.

# Fisherwoman Extraordinary

By RUTH WEISS

There are professions and professions for women. Take Eugenie Clark, for instance, Ph.D. in Ichthyology, that branch of zoology that deals with fishes. Sound dull? Hold on a minute . . .

The enthusiastic pursuit of this study has led Miss Clark to such romantic corners of our globe as Hawaii, many of the South Sea Islands and the Red Sea in Egypt. Her scientific expeditions have been sponsored by such esteemed organizations as the American Museum of Natural History, New York Zoological Society and the Atomic Energy Commission.

Her assignments have run the gamut from such routine work as counting the fin rays and vertebrae of spiny fishes all of the same species to the production of test-tube fish babies something no one in this country has been able to do before. Her work has also included the study of poisonous fishes and the mating and reproductive behaviour of many different kinds of fishes.

Miss Clark has caught her specimens which are today prize collections in many of our museums by a variety of methods including nets, poisoning of tide pools and spearfishing. The latter being the most fascinating and adventurous as it consists of catching the fish underwater in his natural habitat by means of a long spear. No mean feat for a slim pretty young woman weighing a little over a 100 pounds! Spearfishing is a sport which would daunt many a hardy male, but to Miss Clark it is all in a day's work.

Some of the strange fish she has come across have included the legendary "mermaid" fish in the Red Sea of Egypt. There is however nothing romantic looking about this fish as its name might imply. It is a large fish, about 11-feet tall with the body tapering into a tail fin. The face is strangely inexpressive and the eyes are so small that they can barely be seen. The real name for this creature is the dugong. Another kind of strange fish she came

across in the Red Sea was one species which pulled a switch on nature. The pipefish—one of a small group of animals has a real claim to fame, for it is the male who has the babies! As if in retaliation for this injustice, this fish is most unfishlike. It seldom swims and when it does, it is in slow motion. They usually cling to plants, their body held upright.

Aside from her adventures in the study of fish, Miss Clark has had other exciting experiences along her travels. For example, the hospitality she received from a native family in Gum was so overwhelmingly warm and cordial that after being dined lavishly on roast chicken, lobster and crabs, she asked to see the lady of the house. Without any ado, she was taken to an upstairs bedroom where the good woman was in the process of having a baby!

She also visited a most unusual island in the Pacific—Merir. This tiny island is for the aged only. Here they are left, each with some essential job to do. They are interdependent on each other and quite happy.

Miss Clark's interest in fishes dates back to her childhood. As a little girl in New York, most of her Saturdays were spent in Battery Park, formerly the site of a huge Aquarium. The most important birthday present of her childhood was when her mother gave her, her very own 15 gallon aquarium. Fortunately, this enthusiasm never left her for Miss Clark has made important contributions in the fields of Ichthyology. Dr. Clark has also found success in the field of writing, her book "Lady with a Spear", has been a popular seller. She is now working at the Cape Haze Marine Laboratory in Placida, Flor-



Jack Meyers of the Puget Sound Mudsharks club and two of the top fish speared for that region recently . . . 42-lb. and  $51\frac{1}{2}$ -lb. Ling Cad.

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SKIN DIVER-December, 1956

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## MIAMI

By JORDAN KLEIN

Two friendly Remoras followed and tried to attach to us the entire day. Photo by Jordan Klein.

Flying spearfishermen are coming into their own in the Miami area. The Biscayne Seaplane Base has been doing an ever increasing job in supplying air transportation for avid divers. Recently I was invited up to the Seaplane base for a trip. I arrived at 7:00 AM and met Pat Henning who was my partner for the trip. (Pat and I both have private licenses). The three planes were on the ramp ready to go and within a few minutes two Cubs and a Seabec were underway for Key Largo. We landed 35 minutes later in Broad Creek. The tide was running out so we anchored and dove in close, having to swim to keep from being swept away from the plane. When this became tiring we dove up the anchor and drifted and dove until finding a good spot, then dropped the anchor and worked the area till someone in another plane



further down yelled of a better spot.

Joe Maugeri owner of the Base was in one of the planes with Robert King. They got two grouper to total 32-lbs. plus seven nice crawfish. Bill Pascoe and Russel Klepinger did alright with a grouper, three snapper and ten lobster. We were so intrigued with the whole deal that we spent more time watching and taking pictures than fishing and came away with a Hogfish and five crawfish. At 9:00 AM like scared ducks we took off for home arriving about 9:30 and I'm sorry to say that I was in my office at work late but happy. That night we had a fish fry at the Seaplane base, we all know how that turned out . . . late for work again.

Fishing by boat can still be fun and the Reef Divers of Miami proved it a recent Sunday when 14 couples went aboard the 87 foot yawl "Fiona" with Capt. Williamson and headed for Triumph reef 15 miles below Miami. The main reason for the trip was to prove to the girls that it wasn't only a man's sport. Archie Fields, president of the Reef Divers, said the trip was a giant success since all of the wives were checked out and no one even got seasick. Now the fellows have to buy additional equipment for the other half, and the baby sitting business is looking up.

Frank Kershaw, the activities chairman of the club, and the man that arranges the trips, doesn't know whether he's a hero or a menace to the community. It's safe to surmise one thing though, there won't be as much arguing about spearfishing in the home anymore. The old man will just have to stay home while ma goes out and spears

a few fish.

## Letters

Recently I moved from New York to Miami, Florida and have no skin diving buddies. I am 23, with relatively little experience but I am interested in skin diving and would like to join a club or meet fellows interested in skin diving who wouldn't mind having another around.

Edward Berkoben Apt. 3 740 S.W. 9th Street Miami, Florida

The response to the questionnaires sent out by the New Jersey Council of Diving Clubs is very encouraging. The Council will contact all divers interested in joining or forming clubs as soon as a greater percentage of questionnaires is returned and a compilation of the data made.

New Jersey Council of Diving Clubs Lee Gottlieb, Secretary

Have been reading the Magazine for several years and think it is the best. You seem to cover just about everything in the skin diving game, but I think that fiction belongs to the highly adjectived pulp mags devoted to same. I did enjoy your last issue fiction

but feel that there is too much to cover in skin diving to waste time and space on thrillers. (and fictional ones at that). Keep up the good work)

Aquatically yours,

Don Hettrick Buffalo, N.Y.

I would appreciate learning whatever responsible and authoritative information you may have relative to the effects of changing water pressure on a subject with myopia.

In particular, does skin-diving, without Scuba, and to modest depths (15' to 20'), present the possibility of suffering detachment of the retina? If so, will Scuba diving overcome this difficulty through equalized pressure?

I would like to introduce my wife to skin diving but hesitate to do so because of this supposed hazard.

William E. Duffy New York

(Dr. Burns replies: "First of all changing water pressures have no effect on myopia. In regard to retinal detachment, even though depths of 15 to 20 feet sound modest enough, the pressure changes are very great as also are changes in expansion and contraction of gases. With an individual prone to retinal detachment, the pressure changes or changes in physiology that accompany increased gas absorption by the tissues could precipitate a detachment with or without use of Scuba. A normal eye would not be so predisposed to such changes. If I had retinal

detachment myself, I would not take up diving.")

#### O'BANNION'S DIVE

- ... was great, a story of this caliber every month would be a good idea. Allen Crabtree, Hudson, N. H.
- ... keep our SD free of fiction, we can read fiction in True, Male, Argosy, etc. Cape Breton Sub Aqua Club, N. S., Canada.
- ... enjoyed O'Bannion's Dive very much. Fiction will give a lift to the mag if it doesn't get fantastic. Jerry Heskitt, Elyria, Ohio.
- ... was an interesting story and rates merit but fiction does not belong in SD. Phill Bayouth, Okla. City, Okla.
- ... is an interesting and well written story, but that's as far as it goes. Keep SD the way it is. M. R. Hope, Culver City, Calif.
- . . . to have a good, complete mag you need a good fiction story. Let's have more of the same. Paul Dayton, Tucson, Ariz.
- . . . there are many very easily tapped sources of good fiction and too few of useful information. I would be disappointed to see SD join the rest of the stuff on the newstands. D. T. Church, Birmingham, Ala.
- ... I enjoyed reading O'Bannion's Dive and would like to read more of Mr. Hixon's material. Penny Tasche, Sarasota, Fla.

(Here are a few of the answers we have received from you concerning fiction in the magazine. Thanks to everyone for your frank answers and time. Results—70% no fiction, 30% yes. Ed.)



EARL MURRAY—Underwater photographer for Life magazine on the Andrea Doria. Geology Dept. Scripps Institution of Oceanography. President, Bottom Scratchers, San Diego.



ZALE PERRY & PERRY BEVINS—Motion picture and TV stars. Zale is holder of the official women's deep dive record. Perry is President of Scientific Underwater Research Enterprises, underwater still and motion picture, comercing.



JACK PRODANOVICH—One of the first skin divers in the United States. Bottom Scratchers Club of San Diego.

# DIVE

223 Hermosa Ave. Redondo Beach, Calif. FR. 9-1473

The 1957 Dive N' Surf exposure suits, at last, after year Picture research, is the greatest single improvement ever made profe exposure suits. Yet this new process reduces our labor a divers and this allows us to supply you at a new low cost: (finis Surf suits, not kits) . . .

THE SKIN DIVER REGULAR	\$31.9 us
THE SCUBA DIVER HEAVY DUTY	\$39.9
THE PROFESSIONAL DOUBLE DUTY	\$46.9
(used by divers on the Andrea Doria, 220 feet down-	-46° water

Free samples, details and price lists on all new suits available by writing to the Redondo location.



BOB DILL—Underwater photographer for "Life" on Andrea Doria. Marine Geologist, Naval Electronics Lab., Geological Diving Consultants, Inc.



DALE VELZY—Ones surfloon the Pacific Coar of Vo Surfboard Mfg. (

SKIE

## SURF

731 Pearl St. La Jolla, Calif. GL. 4-0544

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BEV MORGAN—Author of "Diving with Safety", former Director of Los Angeles County Diving Instructor Training.



DR. PAT BLASDALE—Eye specialist who performed the delicate eye transplant on bat rays in the Marineland tank.



AL LARSON—Addicts Club of San Diego. World's record holder: three classes, white sea bass, yellowtail, blue fin tuna.



ELZY—Ones surfboard riders Pacific Ger of Velzy-Jacobs d Mfg.

1956



DR. ANDREAS RECHNITZER—Diving scientist. Naval Electronics Lab., San Diego. Scientific Diving Consultant.



RON CHURCH—Underwater photographer. World's record holder: California black sea bass.

## Close Shave

(A report by Stuart Mackay from the South Pacific in "The Seafarer", October 9, 1956.)

Dick and I have just become convinced that guys that carry knives to fight off fish are just kidding themselves. My six inch dagger has always looked pretty big until today but now it seems a little ridiculous.

We started to swim out across the reef to photograph a few fish and take in some of the exquisite sights. After going 100 feet we were in two-and-ahalf feet of water. Dick was snorkeling along looking for shells and I was looking ahead when suddenly out of the distant haze an oft mentioned shape appeared. As I banged a couple of stones to make Dick look up, it turned and started toward us. It was thick enough to mostly fill the depth of water and Dick's honest best guess was that this shark was ten feet long. I had my dagger out and began to feel real silly when he started coming straight on. They say wait 'til he goes over you and slice his stomach. He was now only a few feet away, was looking straight into my mask, was not a harmless sand shark, and did not look inclined to go over me . . . even if there was room. When about all you see is a blunt nose you're not very inclined to reach out a puny knife and stick it.

A few easy turns and he looked us over and went on his way. We went.

The fact that one guy got the major portion of his lower leg bitten away a couple of days ago, apparently without provocation, had not made us any more at ease.



Winner of the California Sheepshead Derby John Gaffney shows everyone what a 22-lb. Sheepshead looks like. Gaffney speared this one near Ship Rock, Catalina Island, using a lung at 150 feet. First prize for Sheepshead was a Kelpsuit kit. Congrats, John!

## MISSOURI SPRING EXPLORED

The depths of Bennett Spring in the Central Missouri Ozarks were explored recently by Bob Brown and Rod Friedhofen, both of Springfield, Mo., members of the Aqua-Lugs Diving Club.

The two men convinced Joseph Jaeger, director of Missouri's state park system, that it might be valuable to know what was under the smoothly flowing surface of the chilly water springs that feeds trout-stocked Bennett Spring branch and attracts thousands of tourists and sportsmen.

Jaeger consented to the test dives and was on hand when the two donned rubber suits, face masks, weight belts, bottled air and swim fins.

Brown made the deepest dive, without benefit of a guiding rope. In describing the dive he stated that he dived about 15 feet down to enter the spring shaft. Then he followed the shaft, roughly seven feet in diamenter by his calculations, an estimated 275 feet in a dogleg that swung to the left as it descended gently. At that point the shaft became vertical. He descended another 50 feet before starting up.

After the dive the two men said some gravel has partially choked the opening to the shaft but not seriously. They brought up samples of the bits of rock, hoping they might find out from a geologist where it may have been washed from. That might supply further information on the length and size of the spring and the source of the water.

On the surface the spring branch swings in a west to south direction. The underwater shaft, Brown said, arched from a northwesterly to a southwesterly direction.

There wasn't much of a crowd at noon when Brown and Friedhofen made preliminary explorations. But by midafternoon there were 2,000 people watching the final dives.

The divers reported a whole hardware store full of trout lures in the bottom of the spring hole. Brown brought up a foot long moss covered twig that was covered with flies, spinners, artificial grubs and worms. He picked 18 lures off the twig.

When talking to a person in the water one can do almost as well with his head above the surface since the poor impedance match causes much of the sound to go via the chest. From "Seafarer".

## SCIENTIFIC SCUBA DIRECTORY

By ROBERT DILL

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In recent years the use of Self-Contained Underwater Breathing Apparatus has become an important adjunct to marine research and engineering. Except for certain local areas, interchange of technical information between scientists and engineers using Scuba appears to be very limited. In order to promote better liaison between persons using Scuba, the U.S. Navy Electronics Laboratory is conducting a survey in the hope that enough data can be accumulated to publish a report describing various aspects of Scuba use.

A brief questionnaire has been formulated by a group consisting of diving personnel from the Scripps Institution of Oceanography, La Jolla, California; Navy Underwater Demolition Unit One, Coronado, California; Navy Combat Camera Group, North Island, and the Navy Electronics Laboratory, San Diego, California. We are aware of the limitations of the questionnaire type of survey; perhaps all of the important questions relative to diving have not been included. However, questions were purposely made brief and as few as possible to make a minimum demand on your time.

The data accumulated from the returned questionnaires will be tabulated and summarized in a Navy Electronics Laboratory Report. The names, addresses and affiliations of all contributors will appear in this report so that it may serve as an International Directory of Scuba Personnel. A complimentary copy will be sent to all persons who have contributed by completing the questionnaire.

We are mailing the questionnaire to all diving personnel whom we know, both in this country and abroad. Because our list may not be complete, we would appreciate the names of any individuals utilizing Scuba in their scientific or engineering work who may not have received a copy. We would also appreciate any supplemental information you might care to add.

Please apply for your questionnaire to:

Robert F. Dill, Marine Geologist, U.S. Navy Electronics Laboratory, San Diego 52, California, U.S.A.

## AIR SEA RESCUE AND RECOVERY

By CHARLES D. DUNN

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The modern Air Sea Rescue units of our Armed Forces Services are, as we all know, equipped with the best possible tools to carry out their jobs, but, an extensive search of large areas of the ocean are an expensive drain on the taxpayers' pocket. To save on fuel and use of heavy equipment and yet increase efficiency, a plan was devised whereby the Civil Air Patrol with its slower, lighter planes could assist in these oper-The slower, private aircraft could cover an area more thoroughly and where conditions permitted land on the ocean or near-by beaches and render immediate assistance.

If an aircraft had gone down in shallow water or close to shore, it might even be possible to recover it before the action of the sea had made a total loss of the plane. Also, in modern fighter aircraft, the pilot has oxygen equipment that would enable him to survive for a limited time in water less than thirty feet. With this in mind it was thought that a group of divers equipped with self contained underwater breathing apparatus would be not only helpful but a necessity. On several Air Sea Rescue operations skin divers from the New York-New Jersey area were asked to assist and then it was decided to form a unit of divers attached to the C.A.P. who would be trained for this work. Thus the Air Sea Rescue and Recovery Association was formed.

Our unit now works with both the C.A.P. and the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary on their Search and Rescue operations and we offer our services to all who may need them.

Our members are skin divers who volunteer their services and take part in a training program designed to make them as good, if not better than, the professionals. Every member is required to hold a Red Cross life saver's card and then pass a series of tests that should make him a second cousin to a fish. As yet none of us has grown gills but it would be a definite asset.

We were formed in March of this year and were well enough organized to assist in the Long Island Spearfishing Championship, the East Coast Championship and the Nationals at Newport, RI., by supplying safety boat and beach

BOOK REVIEW-

## Alorida Underwater Treasure

This book is a tropical sea fantasy of a boy's adventure trying to find a pirate chest left in the hull of an old sunken Spanish Galleon.

The author, Minerva J. Smiley, started writing this story a number of years ago when she and her husband and

patrols. None of our members participated in these events as contestants but several of the boys managed to catch lunch and dinner for all of us after the contestants left the water.

This summer we took part in several field exercises with the Nassau county, New York Wing of C.A.P. and Flotilla 1108. Rockaway Inlet Division, of the USCG Auxiliary. On one Air Sea Rescue drill with the C.A.P., several members of our group were practicing team work when they discovered a late model Oldsmobile convertible in forty feet of water. They removed the license plate and reported the find to the local police. It developed that the car had been reported stolen a short time before. Under the direction of the police department, our divers went down again to conduct a thorough search of the vehicle. They went so far as to take down crow bars and pry open the trunk compartment but nothing further was found to indicate who had committed the crime.

Soon we hope to start our winter training program at Kings Point Merchant Marine Academy pool and expect to be hard at work improving ourselves as individuals and as teams. We have volunteered for lots of work but if several years of work saves only one life it will have been well worth it.

We are just the start of what we hope will be a national association attached to the various armed forces auxiliaries to assist wherever we can in life saving, Air Sea Rescue and promotion of safety in underwater sports. The sportsmen who fly have formed the USCG Auxiliary. Why not organize skin divers to help their fellow sportsmen continue the fine job they are doing and make that job more encompassing. Our address: 64-14 184th Street, Fresh Meadows, New York.

small son operated a glass bottom boat off the Florida coast and the Keys.

She says: "Everytime we passed over these undersea gardens and looked down into the blue green water we were amazed and thrilled at this breathtaking panorama of the world the fisher lived in . . . royal purple sea plumes, pink and yellow sea fans always waving with the tides, coral of every variety and description and . . . thousands and thousands of fish, sometimes a school of dolphins, their scales glittering like sparkling jewels as they swam away . . . angel fish in black and gold, blue and yellow . . . parrot fish in purple and green swimming through the coral trees



Billy gets acquainted with Mr. Lobster

and under sunlit coral ledges. And on occasion a barracuda and shark."

All of this and more too, you will see in the illustrations as you swim with Billy in his quest for pirate treasure.

As you read the story and share with Billy his adventure to find the old sunken galleon, you can imagine yourself swimming with him over the starfish beds, the sponge beds, conch shells, coral growth in all its fantastic shapes and beautiful formations . . . you will meet Nosey the black and gold angel fish, the cow fish, the hog fish, the saucy little sea horse . . . and the grumpy old sea turtle . . . you will really get a liberal marine education.

You will ride atop the old green sea turtle with Billy to lunch in a coral cave . . . only sea food will be served, from fat pink shrimp on yellow sea fan plates . . . to chocolate sea beans for desert.

Does Billy find the treasure? You will want to read the story and find out.

SKIN DIVER-December, 1956

## **NORTHEAST NOTES**

## By DON LAMONT

Northeast Council of Skin Diving Clubs, P. O. Box 42, Shawsheen Village, Mass.

Eighty-three delegates and members attended the annual meeting of the Northeast Council of Skin diving Clubs held on October 27 at the Boston YMCA. Four new directors were elected to fill three expired terms and one resignation. Elected for three-year terms were Ray Martin of the Massachusetts Amphibs, Boston, Massachusetts; Joseph Gallant of the Maine Marine Alpine

Directors of Northeast Council. L. to r. Joseph Gallant, Portland, Maine; Ray Martin, Cambridge, Massachusetts; John M. Erving, Jr.; F. A. Erickson, Holden, Massachusetts, and Don Lamont, Kittery, Maine. Missing when picture was taken are Fred Jenning, Newport, Rhode Island; Garnett Major, Dunstable, Massachusetts; Percy Kingsley, Cranston, Rhode Island; and James Cahill of Beverly, Massachusetts.



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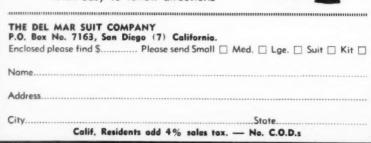
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Club, Portland, Maine; and F. A. Frickson, an independent Council member from Holden, Massachusetts. Fred Jenning of the Newport Underwater Spearfishing Club, Newport, Rhode Island, was elected to fill the unexpired two-year term of Council President Don Robinson, who resigned and moved to Florida.

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Tournaments for the 1957 diving season were discussed and the feasibility of running a summer-long spearfishing derby, similar to the derbies held by line fishermen, evaluated. Proponents of such a derby stated it would give more Council members from the various New England states a chance to participate in Council activities. Opponents stated it would be a difficult thing to control and also would be unfair to divers living far inland. Upon a motion by Jerry Comeau of the Bay State Aqua Club, it was voted to let the Board of Directors work out a program on a spearfishing derby, to be submitted to the clubs for their approval.

Plans were formulated to conduct indoor tournaments in various pools throughout the states of Maine, New Hampshire, Massachusetts, and Rhode Island, during the winter, Idea of such tournaments would be that skin diver entrants would shoot at fish targets from a predetermined distance in pool lanes. Contestants placing spear through target hole would receive certain points. Size of targets would get progressively smaller until determination of winner. It was stated that this type of meet has met with great success in Florida, and is expected to create considerable interest in the New England area during the winter months. With the advent of a large sheet of plexiglass laid flat on water over target area, spectators will for the first time be able to see skin divers in action "live."

Other Council business included: Adoption of a resolution by Brad Luther of the Fairhaven Whalers to refuse Council membership to any club bearing a similar name to a club already registered with the Council.

Adoption of a motion to appoint safety officials from various sections covered by the Council, whose duty it will be to investigate diving accidents in their areas and make a full report to the Council Safety Director, such information thereafter to be disseminated to skin divers through the Northeast Notes column and the Council newsletter.

Adopted a motion to disseminate information on state fishing laws through the Northeast Notes in order that visiting spearfishermen will know what they can legally catch. Fish and lobster laws

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will appear in this column next month for the state of Maine.

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Voted to have each Council member sign a "sportsmen's pledge" to uphold conservation and bag limits.

Voted to increase Council dues to ten dollars per season for a club of five to ten members and a dollar additional for each registered member over ten; independent members to remain at \$3.00 per member, and sponsorship members remaining at \$8.50 a year, all dues to expire the 31st of October, each year.

Voted to allow proxy voting if signed proxies are brought to Council meeting by authorized delegate.

Council Diver of the Month. In 1942, after an ascent from 100 feet in the diving tower at New London, Connecticut, John K. "Jack" Whelan of Bedford, New Hampshire, first became interested in diving. It was not until some ten years later, however, after the Korean conflict that he was able to start skin diving in earnest. Like all skin divers on the East Coast a few years ago, he found it difficult to get a diving buddy and took his wife along on early diving excursions. "She would sit in the boat while I dove," he smilingly recalls, "and usually I found her half-frozen from the cold when I came out, especially in the

Jack's Navy training in submarine and diving medicine stood him in good stead when two years ago he organized the New Hampshire Sea Skates, a very active Council club, and taught the members how to use Scuba equipment. "Almost without exception," he states, "the club's Scuba divers have all been deeper than 100 feet, and while there is little to be seen at that depth in lake diving, all of the members have gained added confidence in their ability."

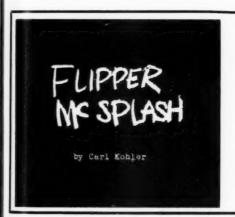
In addition to running a regular Scuba school at the Manchester "Y" during the winter, Jack is working with an associate on a new type face mask which will give peripheral vision under water. He is also the originator and distributor of a nasal preparation which helps clear the ears quickly in people trouble by the inability to "pop" their ears when diving.

Married and the father of four children, Jack taught his seven-year old son diving before the child could actually swim. Now equipped with his own pint-size Scuba, Jack, Jr. has put on many demonstrations of his diving skill.

And just to prove that it really isn't a man's world, Jack's wife and 14 year old daughter took one of his Scuba courses, and are now both accomplished divers.

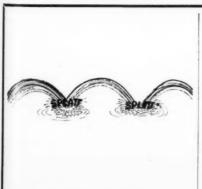


John K. Whelan













## FLORIDA FICTION AND FACT

(Continued from Page 17)

8. FICTION: ".... the so-called sport of spearfishing ..."; or "the evidence is voluminius and positive that spearfishing is not a 'sport'..." FACT:

The writer has practiced many sports over a period of many years. From personal experience he can unequivocally state that spearfishing – like ski-

ing and bobsleighing — ranks among the sports requiring the highest degree of athletic prowess and sheer "guts". Only the best physical specimens of the human race can become truly skilled in this clean and tough sport — like frogmen in the Navy. It is much more of a sport than any kind of game fishing or hunting.

9. FICTION: ".... the officials of the AAU may not be fully aware of these devastating effects on our fishing industry . . . . should establish regulations which will prove more equitable with conservation, or "let us hope that the AAU will take such measures as may be necessary for the proper control of spearfishing so that it may be really called a sport." FACT: The AAU officials familiar with spearfishing are fully familiar with this sport. Those making above statements are completely ignorant of it. Spearfishing does not have devastating effects on the fishing industry except in the minds of some misled anglers and commercial fishermen. The writer has offered and is still offering to the leaders of the Upper Keys Council his full cooperation and the full weight of the Amateur Athletic Union of the United States to jointly work out severe and sound restrictions aimed at true conservation and against the handful of highly skilled professional spearfishermen whose activities in Florida bring discredit to the sport. So far these leaders have refused the cooperation of the AAU.

To conclude:

The above is but a brief random sampling of the "fiction" being spread-by a group of misled, well meaning men. It is a good sign that only a handful of other men in America is falling for this fiction.

The AAU sincerely believes that this random sampling is sufficient to prove the points that:

- The fight against spearfishing in the Upper Keys is led by men not knowing the true facts — blinded by propaganda.
- That the AAU stands for true conservation—not for blind prohibition of a true sport,
- 3. That the AAU is ready to cooperate with the Upper Keys Council and any other group standing for true conservation and will throw its full weight for the promotion of real conservation measures, rather than the present mockery of the law in half a county of the Keys. (The other half of the same county approves spearfishing and actively promotes it (Marathon, Fla.) :

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SKIN DIVER-December, 1956

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(Continued from Page 7)

reaction to this wonderful spectacle. Since goggles and mouthpiece give the diver an appearance of unreality, it's difficult to see his face. However, Robert's eyes registered obvious admiration; his hand gestures leaving no doubt about his enthusiasm!

I pointed to the gaping, black mouth of the tunnel and we both switched on our lamps, their rays cutting into the gloom like fingers of lightning. Staying closely together, we swam into the darkness. Occasionally, we glanced back to make sure the faint light of the entrance was still in sight. Should it be necessary, we planned to use a rope, securely tied to any prominent rock along the wall, with which to guide us back out again.

Then it happened!

We had been swimming forwardcovering, perhaps, 70 meters into the cavern-when we chanced to look behind us into pitch blackness! The pale glow of the entrance was gone! Engulfed in that deadly gloom, we were a tiny island of light. Desperately, we looked at each other by the blinding glare of our lamps-anguish reflecting from our

Then I had an idea: perhaps we might yet find the way back if we weren't blinded to the entrance glow by our own lamps. I switched mine off and Robert did the same. Immediately, we were swallowed in blackness. A few, terrible seconds passed-surely, the longest seconds I'll ever live. Suddenly, I touched Robert's arm excitedly! I could see a feeble, but certain, glow of light ahead of us in the cavern!

Again, we began swimming carefully forward a few meters, turned a prominent corner in the gallery (the fluid light growing more pronounced) and emerged to find the radiant light of the exit to the Medas Islands tunnel!

A little way further and we were crossing through a large, round cave with a high vault. The huge, fantastic arch was supported by a singular, rocky column. It was something magnificent of Jules Verne's imagination! The depth measured 28 meters. The cavern measured 30 meters, in diameter, by 15 meters high and a distance from the entrance to the exit of 130 meters.

We were so amazed that I imagine, if in that moment, Captain Nemo's Nautilus had come silently floating into the great cavern-we wouldn't have been surprised at all!

The mystery of Medas Islands is no longer a mystery to us.



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SKIN DIVER-December, 1956

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These kits make ideal gifts for the Skin Divers in your family. Extra heavy suit kits constructed of double ply foam neoprene for maximum strength, comfort and warmth. These suits are used and preferred by professional and Navy divers throughout the world. Priced from \$39.50

Air cards for \$10 a \$12.50 value.

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Directly across from Midway Drive-In Theatre



**Professional Type** KIT just \$39.50

## SUCCESS!

By LAURA STURGILL

The Bal-Sub-Mare dance, sponsored by the California Council of Diving Clubs, was a huge success, thanks to everyone. Those bedecked in intricate costumes were awed with Waldo, the Whale, and the terrific barracuda created by Henry del Giudice and Catherine and Walter Hughes after two months of enthusiastic labor. The Southern California Skin Divers Club are credited with the making of so many fish hanging about. Gratitude is extended to the Hydrophiles, Kingfishers, Los Angeles Neptunes, Sea Angels, Sea-Sabres for all of their tedious work; to Dot and Gene Davis; to Mr. Hamburg who made posters, Bob Ferris for his wonderful broadcast about the dance; to the Red Onion Cafe, and the generous contributions of Scott Hydro-Pak, Voit Rubber Company; the Boat JC; Penguin, Incorporated; Mel's Aqua Shop; Hermosa Aquarium; Rose Marie Reid; Mark-Marine; The Spearfisherman; Underwater Sport Shop; Dacor Corporation; Park Riviera Gym; Basketville.

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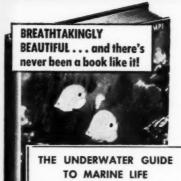
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by Carleton Ray and Elgin Ciampi

Especially written for scientists. fishermen, skin divers and nature photographers, this timely and comprehensive book packs a world of factual information into its nearly 400 pages. Chapters cover the zones of the sea and its biology, photography and equipment, names and classifications, plants, lower fishes, and the mas-ters of the water, with simple rules for identification. Magnificent to look at, illustrated with 16 color plates (including many stunning paintings by a foremost Japanese artist), plus many black and white drawings and photographs.

\$8.75 at book and sports stores or order direct from

1956

A. S. BARNES & COMPANY, Dept. A 232 Madison Avenue, New York 16, N. Y.

## **California Council Derby Results**

By H. J. LOCKWOOD

Hundreds of California divers took to the sea on October 14 to participate in a contest for the largest "bug" and California Sheepshead. The area covered by the contestants in their search for the big one ranged from Santa Cruz to San Clemente Islands to the eighty miles of Southern California coastline, and covered an estimated 4800 square miles of ocean water. From the number of tickets sold and the interest shown, it appears that a Derby of this type was well received, and another is planned for March, 1957.

Rules of the competition were simple, and may be referred to in the October issue of the "Skin Diver." Conservation minded divers should note that these two species of marine life were selected for the contest as they are not taken to any extent by rod and reel fishermen, thereby avoiding any unfavorable reactions from this group of sportsmen.

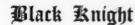
The largest lobster, 18 lb. 2 oz., was taken by Ronny Hays of Van Nuys, thereby winning him the Northill Air Lung donated by the Garrett Corp. The biggest sheepshead was a whopping 22 lb. 13 oz. by John Gaffney of Long Beach which qualified him for the wet suit kit from Kelpsuit Co. in Inglewood. Other prizes were provided by Voit. Dive N Surf, Healthways, Cressi, and the boats Maray and Scuba. Other winners of the lobster section were Brian Shannon, Cliff Dietsch, Le Roy Bailey, and Robert Kulek, in that order. The other placers in the sheepshead group were Claude Allen, Jay Riffe, John Wintersteen, and Roy Sals. The Council wishes to thank all of the contestants and manufacturers who contributed to making this contest a success.

Many baby stingrays are born alive and even at birth are fully equipped with stingers that they know how to use. From "Seafarer".

Mr. Dealer:

You are cordially invited to visit the "Skin Diver" Magazine room and display at the forthcoming N.S.G.A. Convention and Show to be held at the Hotel Morrison, Chicago, Illinois, February 3-7, 1957. We will be in Room 904. Come up and we'll talk about our favorite sport.

Skin Diver Magazine





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## TOBAGO MAY ESTABLISH HAPPY HOME FOR FISH

## By ROBIN KINKEAD

TOBAGO, B. W. I.—This British is land where Robinson Crusoe once roamed may become a happy home for fidgety fish.

What has been suggested as the world's first protected piscatorial playground is Buccoo Reef, a spectacular maze of marine gardens, underwater ravines and multi-colored tropical fish.

Curving for about three miles, only a mile offshore, the reef's crystal lear waters offer unlimited opportunities for goggle-eyed visitors to go snorkling off happily among a multitude of fish dinners on the fin, as it were.

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The idea of a fish preserve is ompletely appropriate to Tobago, which already has the only sanctuary for Firds of Paradise outside of the South Seas.

## BOAC to Resume Miami-Nassau Viscount Service

MIAMI, FLA., The British Overseas Airways Corp. in December will resume service between Miami and Nassau with thrice-daily Vickers Viscount flights. Two of these go into effect Dec. 1, the other on Dec. 14.

BOAC also has scheduled twice-daily flights on Monday, Thursday and Saturday between Miami and Grand Bahama (West End). Its Caribbean associate, British West Indian Airways, will operate services from Miami to Grand Cayman and Jamaica.

Grand Bahama services, flown with four-engined de Havilland Heron airliners, leave Miami at 10 AM and 4:30 PM. The latter flights continue to Nasau under Bahamas Airways Ltd. operation. Miami-Grand Bahama flying time is 40 minutes.

BOAC will offer a once-weekly Viscount tourist service from Miami to Montego Bay and Kingston, Jamaica. It will depart at 11:15 AM on Thursday. A Saturday Viking flight, operated by BWIA, to the same points plus Grand Cayman, will leave here at 12:15 PM.

On Jan. 18, BWIA will operate a Miami-Grand Cayman turnaround, tour-ist-class. Flights will leave Miami at 5 PM Friday and arrive in Cayman at 7:20 PM.

Sample roundtrip fares from Miami are: Nassau, \$36; Grand Bahama, \$21; Grand Cayman, \$89.70; Jamaica, \$111. There is no federal tax on these fares.

# DIVING DOCTOR SEEKS ANSWERS

By W. R. KIRKER, M. D.

This article is in the best interest of the health of every Scuba diver that reads "Skin Diver" magazine.

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Recently, it has come to my attention that many Scuba divers have contracted an illness manifesting high fever, generalized muscle aches and pains, chills, loss of appetite and at times nausea and vomiting. Recent cases I have seen required hospitalization due to the severity of the attack. The clinical picture is like that seen in "grippe" or "virus pneumonia." It occurs usually 24 to 72 hours after diving and tould possibly be associated with ditching and doning of the Scuba.

Since very little is known about this illness as to its cause, I would like to ask that each Scuba diver who has encountered the above symptoms write to me answering the questions listed be-

low in complete detail. Your letters to me will be of great assistance in determining just how prevelant this condition is among Scuba divers. I urge you to cooperate with this survey if you have experienced such an illness after Scuba diving.

Please answer all questions in detail: (1) Name, address, age. (2) Diving conditions. (3) Equipment used. (4) Air source. (5) Were you ditching and doning 24-72 hours prior to illness. (6) Experience in diving. (7) General physical condition. (8) Describe illness in complete detail and the treatment received. If a doctor was involved please include his report and especially chest X-ray findings if any.

Please send above information to: Walter R. Kirker, M.D., 123 Sigsbee Road, Key West, Florida.

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Dear Sirs: Please send me complete information on your underwater camera housings.

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## **EMPIRE STATE** UNDERWATER COUNCIL

## By STAN SHABMAN

The final formative meeting of the E.S.U.C. was held on October 19, 1956 at the 63rd Street Y.M.C.A. in New York City. As usual the meeting was well attended by clubs in the Metropolitan area plus the representatives of the upstate clubs.

Elections were held, the following

were elected to office: Norman Schiff, "Long Island Dolphins," president; Philip Shapkin, "Manhattan Skin Divers," vice-president; June Keiser, "Long Island Dolphins," secretary; Murial Post, "Civil Air Patrol," Treasurer; Dave Iverson, "Troy N.Y. Skin Divers," Don Shearer, "Schenectady Y.M.C.A. Divers," and Stanley Shabman, "Manhattan Skin Divers," were elected to the executive council.

During the meeting a long and serious discussion took place on a problem that has been plaguing underwater hunters for a long period of time. This problem is how and what to do about regulations governing the sale and physical make-up of spear guns and spears used in our sport.

Arnold Post will present to the manufacturers of underwater equipment, the recommendations for safety devices and institute some regulations for the sale of equipment to unqualified divers. In this respect we feel that the sport will attain a more well founded basis of respect from park departments, police and all game and wild life authorities.

We are inviting all clubs and individual divers in New York state to become participating members in the council. Hope that all clubs and divers that have not been heard from will have some sort of representation. Each meet-

wishes to submit to the manufacturers and retailers of spear guns the following recommendations:

For the manufacturers:

- 1. Spearguns should not resemble regular firearms.
- 2. Coloring-should not be gun metal black.
- 3. Gun should be so constructed as to require assembling before it can be operated.
- Manufacturers should provide a covering or carrying case to be included in the price of a gun.
- Devise a firing mechanism that will work only underwater.
- All guns should have safety catches. Provide the retailer with a brochure which he may use to assist him in instructing the purchaser as to the proper use of the gun.
- 8. Attach an instruction tag and list of safety regulations to each gun.

ing will be held either the 3rd or 4th Friday each month.

Let us hear from you and your clubs, as you all know we are working to make our sport more acceptable to the agencies that we must deal with and also acceptable to the final judge, the general public.

One resolution that was passed was that all clubs in the council join the Marine District sportsmans council so that we may get favorable legislation

(Continued on Page 35)

## MAR-MAC'S new scuba accessories





MAR-MAC Safedive Buckles

permit you to get in and out of your lung harness in seconds! One hand operated . . . easy to install. Safedive Buckle Kit No. 1 fits 1"-11/8" web befts and lung harness. Safedive Buckle kit riv. 21/2" web belt and popular cart-\$1.65 Safedive Buckle Kit No. 2 fits any 2"-

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new, high quality—"B 29" supplies pres-of 2,200 lbs. per square inch . . . filtered mountain fresh 1.2 ft. per minute continu-operation. 110-120 volts, 50-60 cycles. Now can enjoy the most thrilling and exciting in the world at minimum cost. Complete,

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## CHRISTMAS GIFTS



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New 10 lb. underwater weight belt featuring a two inch webbing with the Mar-Mac quick release buckle. Price \$7.95.

## **AQUA DIVERS**

1901 Pacific Coast Highway Lomita, Calif. Phone: DA. 6-6663 **EMPIRE STATE** 

(Continued from Page 34) passed for us in coordination with the striped bass bill that they are trying to put forth in the New York state legis-

Now that the Empire state council is in fact a working reality we hope that in the very near future there will be organized a national council consisting of all the sectional councils to have one commanding voice, one that will be heard and appreciated by all existing sporting goods and sport controlling agencies in the United States.

The fact that numerically skin divers are in a majority in most coastal areas, makes us feel that our voices will be heard and will meet with favorable consideration at all meetings of sports minded people. Skin diving is fast beceming the leading aquatic sports in this country, and abroad.

Again let me try to impress upon all clubs the need for immediate and definite action in the formation of a national council. This can be accomplished by each State forming their own sovereign council and then there will finally be a nucleus made up of these sovereign councils bound together to form an administrative group that will be called the National Council.

Our address is: Empire State Underwater Council, P. O. Box 165, Flushing, New York.

## Skin Diving Royalty

By A. M. HERMANN

Royalty has invaded the skin diving field with exclamations on the sport "Fit for Kings!!" Recent pleased participants in several skin diving excursions, in the Florida reefs were Princess Beatrix zu Wittgenstein of Bavaria, Germany, Count Rule Von Bismarck of Santiago, Chile, and Baron Hartmuth Von Koeller, also of Santiago, Chile. Captain Don Hunt, on his good ship "Starlite," officiating for the Florida Frogman from Dinner Key Docks, Miami, and an avid skin diver himself, played the amiable host to the royal party. Just to be sure that everyone had fun, Bill Stephens, who edits and publishes the "Florida Outdoors" magazine, joined in the excursion. Commented Princess Wittgenstein, "This skin diving is what you say in America, 'the most'. I must return to Germany now, but I'm coming back here to dive again next year." The Count Rule Von Bismarck was so overjoyed with his introduction to "Scuba" that he promised to send the Captain ten bushels of tax free wheat from his ranch in Chile. >

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Page 36 through 41

CLUB REPORTS are submitted bi-monthly by club publicity representative, one typewritten page, double spaced, 100 words per report. NEW CLUBS should file their official name and address with "Skin Diver," they will then receive a schedule of the months their report will be published in this section of the magazine and be placed on the Club Roster. A sample constitution and by-laws furnished upon request.

SKIN DIVER is collecting club emblems or patches from underwater organizations around the country, please send yours soon if we have not received it already. We would also like to receive a marine specimen, stuffed, dried, painted, shells, etc., from each club. These specimens will be placed on display in our office.

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Available for Charter Parties, Skin Diving Clubs, etc.



Long Beach, Calif. . . Y HYDROPHILES

By George Muno

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The "Y Hydrophiles" celebrated their first anniversary with a barbecue on the evening of September 29 on the lovely, spacious lawn of the Vogel home overlooking the Harbor at Terminal Island. The water, with boats of various types and sizes passing by, made an appropriate background.

Two large fish were barbecued on an open pit and enjoyed along with many other tasty dishes. The feast was topped off by a beau-tiful and delicious three-tiered anniversary cake, complete with decorations of roses and candle, presented to the Club by the mother of one of the members.

In the evening, under a canopy of stars, the club members and guests enjoyed color movies with sound provided by the Meis-trells from Dive and Surf, as well as most interesting color slides shown and narrated by Homer Lockwood.

Rates for Day—\$7.00 per Person, For Reservations and Further Infor-mation, call FRontier 9-5202.

SKIN I

Carmel, Calif. . . .
CARMEL BATHING ASSOCIATION
By Bill Rokes

The 1956 Central Calif. skin diving champions, formerly called the Seaside Seagulls are now known as the Carmel Bathing Association. Officers are president, Bob Moore of Carmel who won all three first place awards at the contest; secretary, Bill Rokes; treasurer, Bette Moore; Sgt.-at-arms, Jerry Perry; activities chairman, Glenn Perry. So far we are 15 strong.

Club dress uniforms for all diving events are gay 90's bathing suits with derbys and handlebar mustaches for the men. A beach shot of the club in full regalia will be forth-

If you want to dive or learn to dive, write the club c/o Pres. Moore, P.O. Box 2366, Carmel. Girls too!

A trip to Point Conception for bugs is planned this month.

## Guantanamo Bay, Cuba . . . NEPTUNE'S DEVIL-DOGS

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By Cpl. Cliff Youngs

At last!! We have finally convinced Special Services that Scuba would be an asset here at this tropical naval station. Our skin divers club consists entirely of Marines with the exception of our Navy corpsmen.

Since we have such a small amount of Marines here, we have only twelve active divers. Most of us are expecting our transfers to the states in a month or so. We expect to be sent to either New York or Quantico, Virginia. We would appreciate hearing from any diving clubs in those areas, so that we may continue our diving after we leave the tropical waters of Cuba. Cpl. Cliff Youngs. U.S.M.C., Marine Barracks, Navy #115, c/o F.P.O. New York, N.Y.

## Kwajalein, Marshall Islands . . . "THE REEF RAIDERS"

By William MacInnes

This fine club of skin divers was formed at the U.S. Naval Station, Kwajalein, Marshall Islands in March of this year. We now have approximately thirty-two members, most of whom own their own Aqua-Lung, Northhill or Divair.

Each Wednesday and Sunday afternoon, the "Reef Raiders" have permission to check out a Motor launch, and we go diving from all the fascinating islands up the atoll chain of the Marshalls as far as Roi Namur.

The big project for the club now is to get Killer Clam shells, some of which are as big as three feet high. There is quite a market for them in Hawaii as the more expensive hotels and resorts use them to decorate the walks and hotel lobbies. With the proceeds, it is the plan of the club to purchase our own air compressor, as at present we have to rely on the station air department at their convenience.

The big danger out here is Mako sharks and Moray eels, both of which frequent the waters in this area. Our diving rules prohibit dives over 120 feet, the big danger out here is that there is no decompression chamber on the station and not even a deep sea diving rig. To fly a man with the bends to Hawaii (the nearest decompression chamber) would first require eight hours, then the plane couldn't fly over 100 feet elevation which obviously would be impossible.

We would welcome correspondence from other clubs as we get pretty lonesome out on this isolated Naval Station where the required tour of duty is one year. Address any correspondence to me, CWO W-3 William H. MacInnes, USN., U. S. Naval Station, Navy No. 824, FPO, San Francisco, California and California a



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WET SUITS and DO-IT-YOUR-SELF KITS come in ONE STYLE: 2-piece suit, long arms & legs, supporter apron, hood, 5 corrosion-proof zippers.

Regular thickness suit\$44.50
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or Waist entry	, with he	ood)	.\$39.95
Same suit in K	it form.		.\$27.50

Send your full measurements & weight. Cashier's check or Money Order (no C.O.D.). Shipped post paid in U.S.A.

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#### AMERICAN DIVERS CO.

610 Wilshire Blvd., Santa Monica, Cal. EXbrook 4-4753 Montclair, New Jersey . . .
NEW JERSEY SKIN DIVING CLUB

By Barbara Kidder

The New Jersey Skin Diving Club will celebrate its 1st anniversary this December. Since our first meeting, our membership has grown from twelve to twenty-seven active members. Most of our members have lungs and suits.

Due to growing pains and unfavorable weather, we have not participated in as many club outings as we had planned. Most of our outings have been at Green Pond, Franklin Quarry and Long Branch. We have found that quarries are best for visibility but you need a suit for under twenty feet. Average temp., 45°. Lakes and shore areas are too murky for exploring although the water is warm. Average temp., 65°.

Several members were very fortunate in spending their vacations in Florida bringing back stories that made the rest of us drool.

Most of our diving this winter will be confined to the Montclair YMCA pool every Tuesday night from 9-10. During the next few months we plan to practice and teach the basic fundamentals of skin and Scuba diving to our members. President Bill Lewis, Vice President Dick Kidder and four other qualified members will be the instructors. We also plan to give a course in life saving and hope that next Spring all 27 members (if not more) will be qualified skin or scuba divers. Anybody interested in the club (male or female) please contact me, Longhill Road, Great Notch, New Jersey.

The New Jersey Skin Diving Club would like to start correspondence with other clubs and exchange pictures and members for talks. Also ideas for activities in the pool and social gatherings.

Milwaukee, Wisconsin . . . AQUATIC BADGERS

By Bob Hendricks

Our members have made their annual change from swim suits and suntans to dry suits and goose pimples. As spearfishing has been very poor due to bad visibility we have been concentrating on salvage. The 47° water off Milwaukee's Government Pier, a popular place for fishing, yielded to Larry Bethe, Matt Jacobchick and Ken Thomas countless rods and reels, cigarette lighters, knives and even a workable lantern.

Two weeks later eight of our members dove in the cold, crystal clear water of the Racine Quarry where they sighted three bikes and an old generator in 60 feet of water. We had one casualty—David Knaup ruptured his eardrums. Following this dive we had our annual Fall Social, with plenty of food and Milwaukee's famous beverage and entertainment. We found our better divers were our poorer poker players.

Pasadena, California . . .

### EBBTIDERS

By Murph McInnis

Well! The frost is on the pumpkin, but it hasn't chilled the enthusiasm of our members. With the installation of new officers at last month's meeting, plans are shaping up for another active winter of diving. Our thanks for a job well done to last year's president, Harold Gustafson, and wishes of good luck to Dewayne Wilson, our newly elected president, elected for a second time.

A lobster dive to Catalina on the "Maray" proved both enjoyable and fairly successful. Lobsters were seen by the scores and many legal ones taken. Mart Toggweiler, skipper of the "Maray", sure knows where to drop the hook for the game we seek.

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#### VANCOUVER SKIN DIVERS

By Gino Gemma

We now have 43 active members and will he diving all through the winter. Although the water is quite cold the fellows are all using wrist seals and wearing lots of underwear. The water is becoming very clear and the fish seem to be moving in from deeper waters. Most of the fellows dive every week-end and some during the week. There are 22 members with Scuba rigs. We have Pat Molony of the Vancouver Police Dept. Diving Squad as our president, and he also trains the members in the same instruction as the Police Crew receive.

We have an offer from the Royal Canadian Navy at Vancouver Island to train any members in the Club as Navy Frogmen. They will send an Officer over to Vancouver every week with equipmment and he will give us lectures and training. We feel that this is the greatest thing that could ever happen

to our club or any club.

On our outings now the members do a lot of photography work, and look for specimens. There are a lot of very large Ling Cod in the areas now and a few Octopus. Also we are very fortunate to have the use of a 45-ft. boat that we can use any time we want.

Dallas, Texas . . .

#### DALLAS DIVERS INC.

By Willis Logan

The "Dallas Divers" played hosts to the Ark-La-Tex Divers of Shreveport, Louisiana, at the Tyler, Texas, state park Sunday, Sept. 23. Part of the day's activities was a treasure hunt and the Shreveport club found the prize. They also found a good lifetime rod and reel and a wrist watch in running con-dition which the Baylor Watch Co. traded for a new one.

Two new qualifying members were Bobby Graff and Joe Caver. At the next regular meeting qualifying new members and upgrading qualifying divers to higher classifi-

cations will constitute the entire program.

Toward the end of the month the club will be invited to Shreveport for an "alligator" gar rodeo." Prizes will be given and this will be the club's first dive where rubber suits will be worn. The Louisiana State Game Commission will be in attendance. Results and pictures of the rodeo next month.

Lexington, Kentucky . . . "MERMEN OF KENTUCKY"

By Estill Lyons

Mr. William Fitzpatrick and myself, recently recovered a drowned victim, at a local rock quarry. Mr. Jim Barrickman, re-porter for The Lexington Herald Leader Newspaper, became interested in our activity and received permission to write a full page feature story in his newspaper about "The Mermen." We invited Mr. Barrick-man and Mr. Martin Jessie, newspaper photographer, to one of our sessions, furnished them with equipment and introduced them to the underwater world and Scuba diving, needless to say, we have two new prospects for our group.

Bill Fitzpatrick, Orvill Reynolds and their families just finished a two week spearfishing

trip to Florida. They were very successful. Mrs. Elizabeth Winburn, Ray Lee Reeves, Robin Reeves, and Leslie Reeves are now vacationing in Florida and intend to spearfish. Charles Underwood recovered a cruiser from the Ohio river and was well paid for his efforts. Jay Rosensweig recovering from a recent operation will soon join our groups Richmond, Virginia . .

#### UNDERSEA EXPLORERS

By Jim Thompson

Seventeen members joined our monthly outing at Stove Point. Several Divers started spearfishing but since the only game seemed to be other divers they went oyster hunting and were rewarded by much better

Three of our better divers Messers. Krohne, Ogelsby and Bullard spent an evening at crippled childrens hospital here showing off their gear to the kids and answering

questions. Their gear included a deep (sponge) divers suit along with an array of lungs.

We are obtaining an air compressor (15 cfm) for our club and would welcome comment from other clubs as to the advisability of this move. -

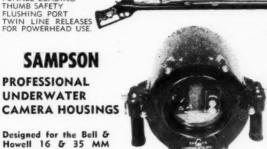
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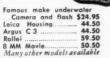
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#### THE CORAL CAVE MEN OF TREASURE ISLAND

By Preston Brock

During the last two months we have had a number of get-togethers. One was in Tampa Bay near here, no fish were seen due to the cloudy water there. Several weeks later we had an outing in the Gulf of Mexico and found the water not too good as far as clearness goes. Along with this last outing we had a meeting followed by a bang-up picnic. A great time was had by all. At the meeting we made quite a number of plans for the coming year.

Among plans made were: we intend to

Among plans made were: we intend to dump old bricks and the like in areas of the gulf which are barren and therefore have not many fish. Such bricks and other rubbish not affected by salt water will bring fish to the area on much the same principal

as wrecks of ships, etc.

We are also planning to get a "skin diver's eye view" of the flora and fauna in this area (underwater that is) and compile it into some sort of order in a file. This is still a long way off though. Now; A MERRY CHRISTMAS and a HAPPY NEW YEAR with best wishes for a good diving season ahead from your fellow skin divers in FLOR-IDA.

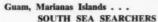
Larchmont, N.Y.

#### WESTCHESTER TRITONS

By Stephen Carner

Air temp: 60-Water temp: 50-Visibility: 5-15 feet.

Since our appearance on C.B.S. Television in early September, several New York and Westchester newspapers have done feature articles on our club. This publicity has put us in a position to exert a favorable impression of skin diving in general, and we have offered our services on a voluntary basis to all local law enforcement agencies. The response from the various townships was so gratifying that we offer it as a suggestion to all clubs who wish to better their public relations. We are now working to set up a Red Cross sponsored Scuba school in the area.



By Edward G. Holt

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SKIN

The South Sea Searchers, skin and lung diving club, sponsored by Special Services of Andersen Air Force Base, is believed to be one of the largest and finest of its type anywhere, boasting a membership of seventy military and dependant personnel. The club is controlled by a three man Board of Governors consisting of Edward J. C. 'Happy Al' Allen, Mr. Joseph Campbell and Edward Wombolt. The Board of Governors is elected and in turn appoint the Training, Equipment and Rules-Membership Committees.

Lungs are furnished to club members and no dues are collected. This is possible courtesy a grant from Special Services Non-Appropriated Funds Council.

The club has a very fine and thorough training program consisting of nine phases of instruction, including both classroom and water work, with Water Safety the prime objective. The training committee, a group of more experienced divers is presently headed by Fred J. Barten.

We are very fortunate in having as chairman of our Advisory Council Mr. Joseph Campbell, Master Diver, who has over twenty years experience diving in waters the world over. Mr. Campbell is also owner-operator of Marianas Divers, who supplies and repairs all diving gear owned by the club. Other members of the Advisory Council are Capt. Sidney H. Wanzer, MD and Major Eugene I. Tucker.

The semi-tropical waters surrounding this island are ideal for skin and lung diving the year round. An exposure suit is never needed and, in open water on clear days, visibility runs as high as 150 ft. Spearfishing, photography, shell and coral collecting and exploration are some of the club's many

In view of the fact that there have been several drownings here, caused mostly by persons going into unsupervised and unauthorized areas, we are proud of the fact that we have not had a single drowning or serious accident, tho almost all areas are open to the club. We especially believe this is a very fine record considering the tremendous number of hours our members have collec-

tively gathered.

Los Angeles, Calif. . . .

#### PESCADORES

By Floyd Oliver

The Pescadores of Los Angeles combined a luau with two energetic days of skin diving, thus escaping one of the hottest weekends of the year, September 29-30.

Saturday's activities began with a dive off Dana Point in which sufficient abalone were bagged for the evening's main course. That evening at Doheny State Park, after much preparation, the fifteen couples present feasted on fried abs, tossed salad, roast corn and Pescadores punch sipped through straws from watermelon halves.

Jack Opperman and Don Finley did an Alphonse and Gaston act as they awarded each other the club's trophies; Jack for scallop and fish and Don for lobster and abalone.

Bob Dingfelter and his ukelele led the inevitable singing through familiar and less well known songs until a pleasant but firm park gendarme suggested it was after clos-

The highlight of Sunday came when Jack Opperman and Howie Lindenmeyer debated over the width of the barnacles on the scallops they had brought up at Laguna Beach. Howie, being an engineer, was the most persuasive when it came to measurements.



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KYUSHU SENSUIFU SKIN DIVERS' CLUB

By Donald E. Arnest

Water Temp., 60°—Water Condition, Choppy with Fair Visibility—Air Temp., 68°.

Trips were planned throughout the month

but due to weather conditions only one was taken. Our hunting grounds were the Shirashima Island 6 miles N.E. of Ashiya. Heavy swells caused a few cases of sea-sickness among the eight members participating, but all was forgotten on the arrival of our destination.

Jack Avery, Roy Collins and myself drifted into a crevice filled with Crab. Turbulent waters limited the catch to only four. Later Jack, Roy and Tony Rubcich each picked up

a fair size blue perch.

Due to the change in water visibility we moved into shallow water for sazae's and surprisingly discovered abalone which gave us all a little more warmth and energy to go on.

When the blue of the water started to blend in with the blue of our bodies, Pete Baker, Paul Shenar, Joe Brooke, Dave Riles and the other frozen four decided it was time to go.

Coming month's activities consist of more trips, (with suits this time) movies and classes on fish familiarization to put more interest in club meetings.

Daly City, California . . .

#### SEA LIONS

By Richard Selmi

Our first and second meetings are past and we feel that we are on our way to being a very active diving club. On our week end outings we have had a terrific turn out and our main problem has been to qualify all the prospective new divers. We have some very good divers and some prospects that can't even swim, so with the type of water and coast line that we have in Central California a very tough safety program is a ne-cessity. This club is blessed with being in an area that has wonderful fishing and abalone waters, our only problem is our limited number of good diving days due to murky

On our last outing of senior divers we had very good results with some limits of ab and also a good number of fish such as Kelp Greenling, Cabazone, ling Cod, Rubber Lip Perch and Red and Black Snappers

Seattle, Wash. . . .

PUGET SOUND MUDSHARKS

By Gary Keffler

The Mudsharks have been very active this summer. The Pacific Northwest Spearfishing Championships were a success with the Mudsharks taking first place in a field of 21 teams. Jim Blanchard, Sam Meln, and Gary Keffler made up the winning team. Jack Meyers has come up with a world record in his 51-1/2 lb. Ling Cod. John Tallman also picked up a world record with a 16-lb. 15-oz. Cabazone, taken skin diving. Roger Lennon, a new member, speared a 53-lb. Ling Cod while Scuba diving. This was the second field he had ever speared. Gary Crymes. second fish he had ever speared. Gary Crymes and Gary Keffler each took a seven foot Octopus skin diving. Ben Noble, our underwater photographer, is planning to do a movie on catching the octopus by hand. It is against the law to spear the Octopus in this state, and we feel it would be interesting to show other people what it is like to catch a 14 or 15-foot Octopus by hand. Diving has been excellent this summer but we expect it to pick up with bigger fish and clearer water this winter.

Los Angeles, California . . .

LUNG BUSTERS

By Bob Figueroa

Water Temp., around 70°—Water Condition, Calm and Clear—Air Temp., around

On October 7th Bob Figueroa, Rudy Gordines, Ron O'Dell, Al Santillan and Robert Berumen found themselves on the rugged road (if it can be called a road) to Punta Bunda, Mexico. The trip covered about 400 miles, but it was such a successful junket that we planned to return soon with more members going along. The water was ideal for diving—warm, clear and calm with plenty of big fish speared. Ron O'Dell took possession of our Perpetual Trophy with a small three foot shark and Robert Berumen got the "crying towel" for bouncing his spear off the head of a Sheephead and losing it. Bob Figueroa encountered a large school of Barracuda, which he decided to leave alone, not knowing the reaction of that many fish to a wounded buddy. The film taken should prove interesting.

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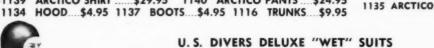
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